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30P

THE TIMES

No. 64,829 FRIDAY DECEMBER 17 1993

IRA high command to meet

Adams says Sinn Fein wants peace

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WATT

■ The IRA General Army Convention is meeting to decide its response to the peace initiative. Ministers made it clear that there will be no bargaining

GERRY Adams yesterday kept the prospect of peace in Northern Ireland alive as the IRA prepared to decide whether to accept John Major's offer of a place at the conference table in return for an end to violence.

The Sinn Fein president said his organisation was committed to peace but needed more time to consider the Anglo-Irish declaration. It emerged that the IRA's supreme authority, the General Army Convention, is to meet this weekend for only the second time in 25 years, to consider its response. All the organisation's units, including some 300 in Ulster jails, are to be consulted.

The General Army Convention is the only body in the IRA which can decide to call off a military campaign. If it rejects the deal the IRA will have to adopt a new campaign.

Sinn Fein's decision to avoid an outright rejection of the declaration and Mr Adams's measured reaction heartened the Dublin Government. Officials said it would allow time for the Nationalist community and politicians to exert pressure on the leaderships of both wings of the movement and to convince them of the value of the peace accord.

However, Mr Adams appeared ready to drive a hard bargain. In his first reaction to the deal he spoke of the need for "clarification" from Dublin. Richard Macauley, the chief Sinn Fein spokesman, said that the release of prisoners would be one of a number of issues to be discussed in any negotiations. "No one is setting preconditions for any talks," he said. "If we are going to have a resolution to this conflict then we must consider where the prisoners will fit into that."

Other leading Republicans voiced unhappiness with the declaration. Mitchell McLaughlin, the party's Six Counties chairman, said: "People on the streets have seen initiatives come and go. Their gut instinct on this one is that the governments may not have succeeded in putting it together."

In London, ministers made it plain that there could be no bargaining with the IRA. The difficulties in any negotiations involving Sinn Fein were underlined when Robert McClenaghan, head of the party's so-called prisoner of war department, said there could be no settlement without the release of "political prisoners".

Mr Major has consistently said there are no political prisoners in the United Kingdom, and he has given an "absolute commitment" that there would be no amnesty for convicted paramilitaries.

More details of the mechanisms for allowing Sinn Fein into the talks process were disclosed. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said exploratory talks would examine the means by which Sinn Fein would be brought into the main constitutional talks. He made it plain that they would not be forced to hand over their arms and munitions before coming to exploratory talks, which would cover the disarming of the IRA.

The IRA is facing an agonising choice, according to Dublin sources. The gunmen know that if they reject an offer that may never come again they could lose the sympathy of the people they claim to represent. But abandoning the armed struggle could lead to a feud within the movement with what British ministers call the "young Turks" splitting off for a fight to the end. A failure of the initiative would almost certainly lead to a relentless new military assault on the terrorists.

The weekend meeting of the General Army Convention presents Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's vice-president, with their most formidable challenge. Although the declaration does not go far enough, they have both staked their future on a more pragmatic approach which has involved dialogue with the Government and recognition of the need for Unionist consent in a new Ireland.

Sir Patrick acknowledged there was a danger that splinter groups might try to disrupt the peace process with unauthorised outrages, but he said that bombings would "count very heavily against the credibility of any organisation with which they are associated." Officials said the government was not requiring an initial public declaration from the IRA of a cessation of violence, but suggested that any private indication of their intention to do so would soon become known.

Police were last night blam-

Continued on page 2, col 5

Tory alarm, page 10
IRA suspicion, page 11
Peter Brookes, page 16

Irish bomb plot terrorists jailed

Two Irish National Liberation Army terrorists were convicted at the Old Bailey of plotting to steal explosives for a planned bombing campaign against MPs and other targets. Martin McMonagle and Liam Heffernan, both 31, were jailed for for 25 and 23 years respectively.....Page 5



JOANNA NAYTHAN-AYRES

Oliver Reed with his wife, Josephine, after being cleared yesterday in a High Court action brought by his film stand-in, Reg Prince. Details, page 3

Schools increase control in curriculum shake-up

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE national curriculum is to be completely revised by next Easter to give schools more control over what they teach and bring peace to the classroom.

Sir Ron Dearing, in his final report to be published early next month, will recommend that up to 20 per cent of the curriculum is made voluntary by September 1995. The core subjects of English, mathematics and science will be left intact, but only the basics of other subjects will be compulsory.

John Patten, the Education Secretary, will receive the report next week and is likely to accept the formula in an attempt to end industrial action by teachers' unions. Extensive consultation among teachers has shown strong support for a swift review of the whole curriculum, rather than a subject-by-subject revision over several years.

Schools have complained that the present curriculum takes up all the available teaching time. The new approach would give them the scope to teach subjects such as classics or vocational courses.

Sir Ron will recommend retaining the controversial ten-level scale on which pupils' progress is assessed. Although the system is regarded as over-elaborate, it is likely to survive to provide a basis for long-term comparisons.

Academics and teachers are being approached to serve on working groups covering each of the ten subjects. Their recommendations will feed into separate committees covering the four stages of the curriculum.

Schools will be consulted on the proposals during the summer term, allowing the revamped curriculum to be completed by the end of the year. Teachers and publishers will then have nine months to prepare for the change. A senior source at the authority said: "Teachers have indicated to us that they would prefer a simultaneous revision of the curriculum, and introduction in September 1995 is the target that has been suggested to us. That means that the revision must be completed in 1994, which we think is realistic."

The changes would not require legislation, but Mr Patten would have to approve each of the new subject orders. The expert groups will be told not to introduce new material, but further controversy is inevitable in subjects such as English and history.

English and technology were already subject to review. Proposals made by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority's predecessor, the National Curriculum Council, will form the basis of a new English order, while technology is being given a sharper focus.

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, welcomed the approach, although he said that schools would have to be allowed

Continued on page 2, col 5



Dearing: sending report to John Patten next week

Leading article, page 21

Ernie promises a new millionaire a month

BY LINDSAY COOK, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

ERNIE is to give away larger prizes to Premium Bond holders. The random number selector will introduce a monthly £1 million prize starting in April, National Savings announced last night. The move is seen as a spoiler for the National Lottery, which could start next autumn.

The weekly Premium Bond jackpots of £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 will also be scrapped in April, as will the £250,000 monthly jackpot. There will be two £100,000 monthly prizes, three £50,000 prizes, four £25,000 prizes and ten £10,000 prizes. The time between purchase of bonds and their being entered for the monthly draw will be reduced to one clear calendar month.

Several companies are competing for the right to operate the National Lottery, which is expected to attract £4 billion a year from prize seekers.

Big prizes, page 25

SIT BACK AT CHRISTMAS

15 days' viewing



TOMORROW'S special 52-page Vision will give full TV and radio listings for the 15 days from December 18 to January 1 so you can plan for the holiday.

For instance, will it be Pavarotti on Channel 4 or *Only Fools and Horses* on BBC1?

There will be details of 200 films as well as the choice of best drama (such as Helen Mirren, above, in Linda La Plante's *Prime Suspect 3* this weekend), arts, documentaries, comedy, children's programmes and sport

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Peking tries to cut BBC film on Mao

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

MAO Tse-tung's flamboyant sex life is widening the gulf between Britain and China at a time of icy relations over the future of Hong Kong.

Peking, which has almost no concept of a free press, has asked the Foreign Office to try to censor a BBC 2 television programme to be broadcast on Monday, detailing the Chairman's taste for group sex with young girls. Dr Li, Mao's personal physician, and other former Chinese officials, tell the programme that China's greatest hero behaved more like a tyrannical, sex-crazed emperor than a simple-living father to the masses.

A British embassy official in Peking has been called to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, and the Foreign Office in London has been asked to "make representations to the BBC about the content of the programme", a Government spokesman said. John Birt, director-general of the BBC, was also asked to discuss the programme with Chinese embassy officials in London but he sent a representative instead with members of the *Timewatch* team who made *Chairman Mao — The Untold Story*.

In Peking, the BBC correspondent, James Miles, and a British embassy representative were told that they would be held responsible for the consequences if the programme went out, sources close to the BBC said.

The BBC will also broadcast another less-than-adulatory programme about Mao — to mark the centenary of his birth this month — on World Service radio on Christmas Day. *Red Emperor* details Mao's disastrous policies, and the differences between what he preached and practised.

Voters reject the Budget

Kenneth Clarke and his Budget have been overwhelmingly rejected despite the initial warm welcome by Tory MPs. The latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows that it was the worst received Budget since the mid-1970s, apart from Norman Lamont's last statement. The poll puts Labour at 47%, Tories 29% and Liberal Democrats 20%.....Page 8

Jobless total falls by 36,000

The Government forecast "jobs and prosperity" in the new year after figures yesterday showed unemployment falling by 36,100 and the largest three-month rise in jobs since the recession began. The jobless fall boosted ministers' optimism after good figures this week on inflation, sales and public borrowing.....Page 25

90% of pensions salesmen 'at fault'

BY SARA MCCONNELL

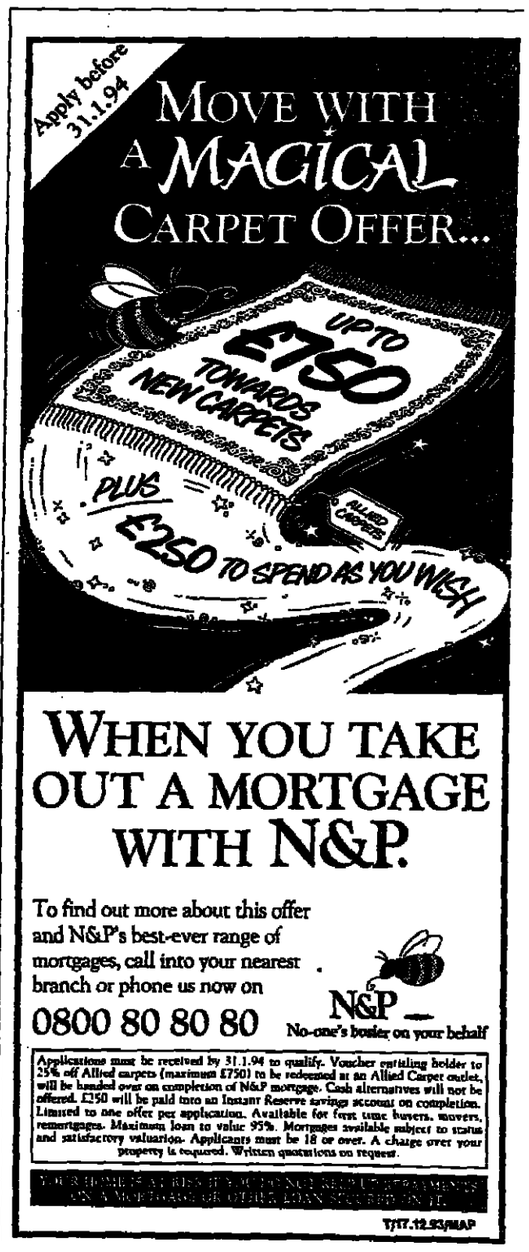
MORE than 90 per cent of salesmen's files opened as part of an investigation into misselling of personal pensions showed that they had ignored regulations set down for selling the plans.

The investigation, by KPMG Peat Marwick, the firm of chartered accountants, for the Securities and Investments Board, the chief city regulator, comes after fears that hundreds of thousands of people had been persuaded to transfer out of good company pensions into personal pensions which offer less secure benefits but a good sales commission.

The findings of the report represent the first concrete evidence of widespread misselling of personal pensions by insurance companies, building societies, banks and independent advisers. Of 735 files opened, only 9 per cent were judged satisfactory because they showed a salesman had got full details of the company scheme and explained the risks of transferring to the customer. The rest either did not have enough information on a customer's circumstances or showed positive evidence of mis-selling.

KPMG said that in 73 per cent of cases there was not enough information on the file to show if the advice to transfer was right or wrong. The advice given was suitable in only 13 per cent of cases and not suitable in 14 per cent of cases. The Commons Treasury and Civil Services Select Committee is also planning to investigate the issue of pension transfers but rejected Opposition calls for statutory regulation of transfers.

Pensions enquiry, page 25
Report analysis, page 26



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MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

The Commons goes crackers over Christmas

Around this time of year, even MPs are susceptible to that festive feeling. But their idea of festivity differs from ours.

For us, "festive" is a happy word, evoking images of joy and goodwill. But for MPs, festive sentiment emerges as it might among the Addams family. If you try to imagine what festive demons, festive ferrets or festive serial killers might be like, you have the picture. For MPs at Christmastide, hell-raising is their kind of party.

Yesterday was the year's last Prime Minister's Question Time, and Commons inmates were in the mood for fun. They had been warming up all through Questions to the Chancellor. Labour barracked, Tories simpered, and the Chancellor himself, at his stammering, cheek-puffing, swashbuckling best, harangued his critics in noisy high spirits.

Labour's shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, who not only has his speaking notes typed in block capitals, but speaks in block capitals, hurled a few blood-curdling statistics at Kenneth Clarke. Clarke hurled back a few generalised insults.

Tories cheered, Labour jeered: Labour cheered, Tories jeered. If anyone had burst a couple of balloons, tried to dance with Madam Speaker, or passed among MPs distributing mince pies — indeed, if anyone had been sick — it would not have seemed out of place. Asking the poor *Hansard* reporters to take all this down is rather like asking a shorthand typist to take a complete transcript of an office party.

John Smith and John Major therefore entered the room with a knees-up already in full swing. There were the usual blowzy cheers, and derisive hoots.

Jim Callaghan (Lab, Heywood & Middleton) began, setting the tone with the first question. His aim was to paint a lurid year-end picture of Major's Britain, and he pulled out all stops.

We were told of abandoned schizophrenics being mauled by lions in zoo cages whither they had wandered, of tribes of people living in cardboard boxes ... all of it, concluded Callaghan with a sort of gloomy relish, "an utter disgrace". If he had now flourished one of those whistle-and-paper devices with a feather at the end, which squeal and uncurl when you blow into them, the effect would have been complete.

Mr Major was not actually wearing a Christmas-cracker hat, but might as well have been. He blew his own party-squealer back at Labour.

Now came an ugly interlude with an uninvited gate-crasher. Norman Lamont rose — to a pantomime "oooooh!" from all sides.

It was his cue to emerge as a worried Tory unionist. He probably *is* a worried Tory unionist, but he's also a dispossessed Chancellor. MPs seem to remember that most. Life is so unfair. Both sides seemed determined to treat Lamont as a party-pooper. Mr Major swung a festive rattle in the cause of his new Irish initiative, and everyone cheered.

Then he and John Smith played a party game. In this, the Labour leader demands that the PM admit he has put up taxes, and the PM demands that the Labour leader admit that *he* planned to, too.

Both charges are correct. The trick, however, lies in ignoring the charge against you, while vigorously pressing the charge against your opponent. Yesterday, as Tory poodles queued up to kiss Mr Major under the mistletoe, Mr Smith sat back, the winner.

If *anybody* can be said to win these ludicrous games. The joy of Christmas is that it does not go on forever. Must PM's Questions?

Bar Council tackles boring lawyers

■ The public is to get a better service from barristers, as a review of standards and the complaints machinery is launched

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LONG-WINDED, pompous speeches by barristers could be a thing of the past with an initiative announced by the Bar yesterday to tackle shoddy standards and poor performance in court.

Robert Seabrook QC, chairman-elect for 1994 of the 7,700-strong Bar, announced the creation of a standards review body under Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of the National Westminster bank and a former chairman of the Bar.

The body, which contains lay members, has a wide-ranging remit. As well as tackling shoddy standards, it will look at the quality of service from barristers, fees and at overhauling the machinery for complaints so the public has better redress.

Recommendations will follow, such as new disciplinary machinery to ensure that barristers who ramble on and put up a poor performance can be warned or disciplined.

Addressing the Bar Council in London yesterday, Mr Seabrook said that the quality of service provided by the Bar was exceptionally high. "But we cannot ignore the finger that has been pointed at us by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice and others in some areas. Shoddy work by any barrister lets us all down."

It was essential, Mr Seabrook added, that where the service offered by a barrister fell short of an acceptable standard, the Bar had "effective procedures in place to tackle this and a modern complaints procedure to provide redress to complainants".

Lord Alexander said that the Bar was a pool of outstanding talent and expertise. But to survive, it had to have "effective mechanisms to monitor and improve standards and deal fairly and effectively with complaints about poor service".

This was what the public increasingly expected and what the profession must provide, he added. "The profession must demonstrate that it is responsive to the needs of its clients and is accountable for poor standards." He hoped that the review body would recommended modern systems to achieve this, enabling the Bar to compete more effectively in the future.

One key part of the review, which includes the solicitor Sir John Wickerson and the accountant John Magill as well as six barristers, will be the overhaul of the disciplinary and complaints machinery.

Mr Seabrook said later: "We have got to modernise our complaints machinery. It is no longer acceptable in my view to say we deal with a complaint only if it amounts to a disciplinary offence."

Mr Seabrook also announced the creation of a policy unit or "think-tank" under James Munby QC which will review restrictive practices at the Bar.

The unit would be prepared to "think the unthinkable," Mr Seabrook said. However, this does not include rules such as the "cab-rank", which requires barristers to take cases in strict rotation.



Lord Alexander of Weedon, who is to head the Bar's standards review body

Six days – the record for a speech

BY OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT Rhodes, a leading silk, took a record six and a half days to finish his closing speech in the Barlow Clowes fraud trial last year.

He insists that the speech was long because of the complexity of the case — and argues in his defence that he obtained an acquittal.

In another case last month, a judge at Isleworth Crown Court accused defence lawyers of time-wasting. Judge Miller said they had strung out committal proceedings so long that the victim was deterred from giving evidence.

The situation, he said, was disgraceful. "Standards have slipped. There are good barristers and there are some very bad barristers. Some barristers go on and on."

Yesterday solicitors welcomed the Bar initiative to crack down on verbosity but insisted it was already on the decline. Charles Plant, head of litigation at Herbert Smith, said: "If they are pompous or long-winded, we use them only once."

However, he accepted that a few barristers "take every point — good, bad or indifferent, and without regard to the investment in time or money". That was partly the fault of the adversarial system and the need to deploy all arguments, but, he added: "There are times when judges let them go on too long and not everyone is aware of just how much it is costing."

House price forecast backed

BY RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

PROPERTY experts yesterday backed a forecast that house prices will rise sharply next year.

This week the estate agents Savills predicted rises of 19 per cent across the country and 25 per cent in prime London areas. Yesterday other estate agents agreed that prices would rise but considered the Savills figures to be too high.

David Goldsworthy, president of the National Association of Estate agents, said: "I think there will rises of up to 15 per cent in London and about 6 per cent elsewhere, but I think the figures produced by Savills are over the top."

Lorna Vestey, from Knight Frank & Rutley's London office, said prices in London would rise by 10 to 15 per cent. "I think a 25 per cent rise is too high. Our figures show that this year there has been a rise of 11.4 per cent in London property prices, and they may well do the same next year." Chestertons estate agents predicted a 10 per cent increase in London prices.

Builders were also optimistic. Barratt is stepping up its New Year building programme from 5,000 to 8,000 homes to take advantage of an expected surge in the market. Frank Eaton, chief executive, said: "I feel reasonably optimistic. Through 1993 the market has strengthened and our sales have steadily improved. The ratio of house prices to income is the lowest since 1970 and mortgage rates are at their lowest for a quarter of a century. There is considerable pent-up demand."

Building societies were more cautious. The Halifax predicted house price rises of 5 per cent, and the Nationwide predicted rises of 3 per cent.

Birmingham Midshires said its latest poll showed consumer confidence to be the highest for over a year, suggesting a stronger market next year.

Ford cuts 1,400 jobs to compete with Japanese

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JOBS will be cut by almost a third at one of Ford's biggest plants in an effort to compete with Japanese rivals.

The company yesterday told unions that there would be no night shift in January at the Halewood plant in Merseyside and that 1,400 of the 4,800 jobs would be cut because of lower demand and increased competition.

Ford said the jobs would be cut over five years through natural wastage and voluntary redundancies. It will review the night shift in the new year. Unions think there will be no night shift for at least three months. John Fleming, Halewood plant manager, said the company had to reassess output because of the big drop in demand on the Continent.

Also, despite a 12.6 per cent increase in new car sales so far this year, the home market remains depressed compared with record registrations of five years ago — a fact illustrated by the announcement yesterday that Lancia is to abandon new car sales in Britain.

The Italian manufacturer is to discontinue right-hand-drive versions of its cars because production is uneconomic. Peak sales of 11,400 cars in 1978 have slumped to just 569 so far this year.

Parts will still be available through Fiat showrooms, and owners of cars registered since August 1990 will be given a £1,600 "goodwill" coupon.

The company's problems reflect the intensity of the competition in Britain, the only growing car market in Europe and, as a result, the target of manufacturers searching for growth.

That intensity continues to force the big manufacturers to cut costs as more efficient Japanese producers, such as Honda, Toyota and Nissan, accelerate output from their UK factories.

Jimmy Airlie, chief Ford negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "The Government is saying we are coming out of recession but this does not square with the reality on the ground."

☐ Ford is investigating an engine fault that makes the Mondeo, named European Car of the Year, run badly in cold weather. The company admitted yesterday that drivers around the country had complained but said it would not need to recall the vehicles.

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Curriculum change aims for peace

Continued from page 1

flexibility in the timescale for implementing the changes. "We cannot go too slowly if pupils are to have the education they are entitled to and teachers' professional authority is to be restored."

Sir Ron's proposals would bring about the biggest change in state schools since the national curriculum was adopted in 1988. Although none of the existing curriculum would be erased, few schools would be likely to use the voluntary sections in their present form.

All age groups, from five to 16, would be affected by the revision. The reductions in compulsory teaching time would vary between the four key stages of the curriculum.

Sir Ron's review of the curriculum and its tests, commissioned by Mr Patten last spring, will be the crucial factor in determining whether the unions call off their boycott of tests. The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which led last summer's dispute, has already indicated that it is unlikely to continue its action if Mr Patten accepts Sir Ron's proposals.

The National Union of Teachers has voted by a big majority, however, to continue its ban on national curriculum testing and assessment until it sees the impact of the review. The Association of Teachers and Lecturers has yet to consult its members on whether to call off its boycott.

Fresh court action is likely if any unions decide to renew their industrial action in the new year.

Leading article, page 21

Adams backs peace

Continued from page 1

ing the IRA for two bombs which disrupted railway services. The devices were found at Brookwood station in Surrey, on the main London Waterloo to Southampton line, after a coded warning.

At Westminster, Mr Major continued to win support for his agreement, but Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, gave vent to the concerns of the Tory right when he questioned the Prime Minister's commitment to the Union. He said Mr Major's past statements of support for the Union "stands a little oddly" beside the declaration's statement that this country "has no strategic interest in Northern Ireland".

John Hume, leader of the Nationalist SDLP, is shortly to resume his talks with Mr Adams. He said the declaration gave "solid grounds" for peace. However, the Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, claimed that the people of Northern Ireland would prefer independence than being pushed into a united Ireland.

In a move clearly designed to placate the Unionists, the Government announced talks on the setting up of a Northern Ireland Select Committee, one of the key demands since the introduction of direct rule. Unionists insisted that the decision was not a sop to them for their support on the Maastricht Bill or for their lack of condemnation of the declaration.

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Court clears Reed of blame for film stand-in's injuries

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE actor Oliver Reed was cleared of blame yesterday for the crippling back injuries that wrecked the career of his film stand-in Reg Prince.

Mr Reed, who had been accused of tipping him over a 12ft restaurant balustrade on to a beach during a drunken prank, kissed his wife Josephine on the steps of the High Court after his legal ordeal and vowed to celebrate with a cup of tea.

The star, who maintained he acted in self-defence when he deflected Mr Prince as he charged at him, said: "I'd like a reconciliation and I'm not ruling it out, but I don't know how Reg or I would behave.

"A lot of mud has been slung and it's difficult to scrape it off. My personal life has been raked over in court and I'm sad about that too. I am a bizarre character and I understand the press has a job to do. I contribute to my own reputation at times."

He added with a smile: "I'm going to talk to Josephine's family and have a cup of tea, but I shall be celebrating in one way or another later."

Mr Reed, 55, who lives in Guernsey, was speaking at the end of a four-day hearing in which his unusual lifestyle — including drunken escapades, lavatorial humour and the sporting of tattoos on private parts — were placed under the microscope.

Mr Justice Owen, who told the court he had to decide "did he jump or was he pushed?", dismissed Mr Prince's action for damages in which he claimed the actor grabbed his ankles and deliberately tipped him over the balustrade of La Reserve restaurant on the island resort of Praslin in the Seychelles during a break in filming *Castaway* in 1986.

The judge said: "I am not saying he [Mr Prince] is lying. It may be — as may be the case with Mr Reed — that now, through the mists and vapours of drink, he doesn't know what the truth is." Nor was he prepared to accept the evidence of Mr Reed where it conflicted with other witnesses.

"Drink is a notorious enemy of good sense, of good manners and of good memory," Mr Justice Owen said. "The decision as to what is good sense may be at least in part subjective and the same goes for good manners. But as to memory the drunk may not only remember poorly, he is also likely to remember selectively." In his view both Mr Reed and Mr Prince had selective memories when giving evidence.

> 'I am not saying he is lying. It may be that now, through the mists and vapours of drink, he doesn't know what the truth is'

Many episodes recorded by the newspapers made Mr Reed out to be a "monster of moral or immoral depravity", the judge said. He accepted some, but rejected others.

The judge said the injury was a result of Mr Prince attacking Mr Reed, "either seriously because he was affected by drink or in mock aggression", and then plunging over the balustrade.

Mr Prince, 57, from Wimbledon, southwest London, a friend of the actor for 20 years, received two fractures of the spine. As he left court with a walking stick, he said: "I am disappointed. As I said all the way through, I hold nothing against him. I wouldn't rule out a reconciliation."

Although Mr Reed won an order for costs it is not to be enforced without leave of the court because Mr Prince is on legal aid. Mr Reed will have to bear his own costs, estimated at £50,000.

Mr Reed added: "I was expecting justice and that is what I got. I was saddened it came to this. It is the last thing I would have wished to have all this bitterness with Reggie. I feel sadness because I have lost a good friend and it has been compounded by this action.

"There was a suggestion my lawyers made that I could have lodged money in court, which he could have accepted and it would not have involved me in this action, but I insisted I would fight it to the end."

He added: "I understand what I do can bring distress to people, but it usually brings smiles. The response from the average man in the street in the past few days has been phenomenal."

Of Josephine Reed, 28, who gave evidence for her husband, the judge said: "I am bound to say her denial of incidents concerning her husband, some of which may have had some factual basis, seem to be more a tribute to her love for her husband than a tribute to absolute veracity."


CHRIS HARRIS

The Princess of Wales waving farewell to the crowd that assembled outside the Institute of Contemporary Arts in The Mall, central London, yesterday to witness the first of her last public appearances (Alan Hamilton writes). It was difficult to tell who were the more distraught, the photographers or the Princess's adoring public.

The princess worked the crowd a treat as she attended the annual general meeting of Centrepoint, a charity for the young homeless of London, of which she is patron. Norman Williams, a retired factory worker from Wrexham who has attended 49 of her functions, said: "She told me she wasn't going to cry, and she said she would be at Sandringham at Christmas if I wanted to see her again."

The photographers, too, will not have to wait long for their next assignation with the Princess. Already this week the media have been tipped off about supposedly private visits, one with Prince William to a Roman Catholic hostel for the homeless, and one with her staff — and her husband — to lunch at a London restaurant.

Double murder stuns school

BY BILL FROST

NEIGHBOURS and colleagues of a university lecturer and his disabled wife who were battered to death in their home spoke yesterday of their horror and grief.

Police found Dr Barry Taylor close to death in a hallway and the body of his wife Janet, a teacher, concealed in a cupboard. Detectives said she had extensive head wounds.

The couple's pet dog, a recent present from their daughter Jenny, had also been battered to death, suffering repeated blows with a blunt instrument.

Neighbours raised the alarm on Wednesday night after hearing screams and "loud banging and crashing" coming from the semi-detached two-storey house in Southsea, Hampshire.

A man wearing blood-stained clothing seen running away from the rear of the house was later arrested. Police believe he was known to Taylor family.

Det Chief Insp Nick Imber, who is leading the enquiry, said yesterday: "It was a very violent attack: the assailant clearly lost control."

Dr Taylor and his wife, whose daughter is studying law at Birmingham University, were described by friends as a gentle and loving couple. They had been planning to spend Christmas abroad to celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Staff at Portsmouth University, where Dr Taylor had worked since 1971, described him as "cracker of a teacher". Two years ago he became principal lecturer at its School of Mathematical Studies.

Mrs Taylor taught at Fernhurst Middle School in Southsea. Yesterday a team of counsellors helped pupils and staff to cope with their grief.

THE TIMES TOMORROW

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WEEKEND



SARAH WILLIAMSON
at 17, is set to become the latest Liverpool sensation; she confides her ambitions to Alice Thomson

SUE CREWE
advises guests to be prepared for all sartorial eventualities on a country-house weekend

DOUG SAGER
survives winter waterfall plunges in the Alps

GILLIAN ROWE
illumines the craft of painters who offer New Masters for old

VIVIAN RUSSELL'S
Gardens of the Riviera: this first exclusive extract focuses on the garden of Charles de Noailles

ROGER BOYES
reminds us that Kitsch is a German word in his round-up of Teutonic crazes

RUTH GLEDHILL
visits the beleaguered Hare Krishna temple at Letchmore Heath

ALSO: Paul Heiney on rams and marital strife in Farmer's Diary; Christian Dymond on collecting brand new First World War planes; Jessica Gorst-Williams recommends stocking fillers under £1; Frances Bissell on how to cope with Christmas food; and Julia Llewellyn Smith learns how to deep fry fish and chips

McLaren to make speed record bid

BY OLIVER HOLT
MOTOR RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Formula One racing car manufacturer McLaren yesterday unveiled a car which it believes will break the world land-speed record and the sound barrier.

Ron Dennis, managing director of McLaren International, said he hoped the car, codenamed Maverick, would reach speeds approaching 1,000mph, well over the land-speed record of 633mph set by Richard Noble of Britain in Thrust 2 ten years ago.

Mr Dennis, unveiling the car at his company's headquarters in Woking, Surrey, said it was the fruition of two and a half years' secret work. However, the car would only go ahead if it was commercially viable. He hoped to make an attempt on the record within six months, probably in the USA.

The 14-metre long vehicle, which is all-British, looks more like a plane with its pencil-thin nose cone. It boasts a Rolls-Royce engine similar to that used in the Tornado fighter and will need a flat distance of 13 miles to make the attempt. The car is made of fully stressed carbon composite.

The project leader, Dr Bob Bell, 35, an aeronautical engineering graduate, said the attempt would probably be made on a clay or salt surface. "We need the mile measured for the record attempt to be in the middle of the 13-mile stretch," he said.

After the McLaren Formula One team surpassed Ferrari's record of 103 Grand Prix wins last season, Mr Dennis said the record presented a new challenge. However, the company will allow pictures of the vehicle only once a big investor has been found.

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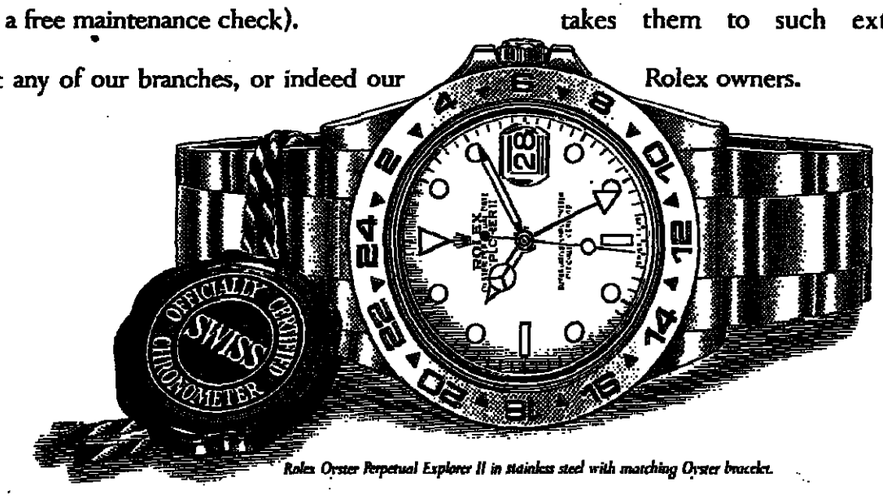
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Dear Drambuie, I'm appalled!

What are you playing at? Your campaign to get the public to drink this fine tipple with ice is totally mad. All this drinking it 'on the rocks' smacks of American liberalism to me. Not since the Chief of Amphibious Warfare suggested landing on Juno Beach with a battalion of windsurfers have I heard such a daft idea. Don't get me wrong. We have our fingers on the pulse down here. Sonic the squirrel is no stranger to this household. But to desecrate 248 years of tradition sets my Scottish blood (my wife's father was capped for Scotland at Curling) boiling.

Bonnie Prince Charlie won't be resting too peacefully, either. Was it not he who first took the secret recipe of aged malt whiskies, herbs and honey, and sped in his bonnie boat like a bird on the wing to the Mackinnons of Skye? There to enjoy the smooth, subtle flavours of Drambuie in the arms of his beloved Flora. The suggestion that ice would have any part to play in such a warm, bathetic scenario is laughable.

Don't assume I'm being blimpish over this. Marjorie and I have been drinking your Drambuie, alternating it with and without ice. In fact, we're enjoying some as I write.

True, ice does seem to bring out the flavour of the drink. The fine malts I particularly noted. But must tradition always play second fiddle to you Johnnies in marketing?

If the plan was to make the drink go further by watering down the Drambuie with ice, it's failed. My bottle is empty.

So, I say "pah!" to Drambuie on the rocks.

And I hope your campaign ends up there, too.



Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells, Rtd.

DRAMBUIE

هكذا من الأصل

Undercover agent foiled INLA campaign

Irish terrorists jailed for bomb plots against MPs

By Richard Duce

TWO Irish terrorists were yesterday jailed for 25 and 23 years after they were found guilty of planning an extensive bombing campaign which was foiled by an undercover MI5 agent.

Martin McMonagle, a senior member of the Irish National Liberation Army, was jailed for 25 years and Liam Hefferman for 23 years. The targets of their bomb plot included the Rev Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party.

Mr Justice Sachs told the two men after they were convicted by a jury at the Old Bailey in just over an hour: "You have besmirched the fair name of Ireland where good people are working towards peace — in stark contrast to your activities. Your chilling intention was to maim, kill and destroy, a prospect which clearly gave you much pleasure."

Neither had shown any remorse or regret, said the judge — "one of the hallmarks of terrorists".

McMonagle, 31, from Limerick, and Heffernan, also 31, from Belfast, were arrested at a quarry in Somerset last February after they were lured into an armed police trap by Patrick Daly, a former driving instructor, who with his family has now been given a new identity at a cost of £400,000 to protect him from reprisals.

Mr Daly, who had established contacts with the republican movement while working in Bristol, helped MI5 to set up a safe house for the terrorists, where their conversations were bugged. He had been working for Special Branch since 1974 when he was arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and threatened with an exclusion order.

Their targets included Ulster MPs, particularly the Rev Ian Paisley, Peter Robinson and the Rev William McCrea, all Democratic Unionists. Kevin McNamara, Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, was also discussed by the pair as a possible target during conversations taped by police.

Dennis Skinner, the Labour MP for Bolsover, was also mentioned but Heffernan liked the politician and did not want to take action against him.



McMonagle: showed no remorse or regret



Heffernan: lured into police trap at quarry

A third member of the INLA active service unit escaped the police trap. Anthony Gorman, nicknamed Fanta, is also wanted for the murder of Michael Newman, an army recruiting sergeant, in Derby in April 1992.

McMonagle, whose brother Eugene — also an INLA member — was shot dead by an undercover soldier in Londonderry ten years ago, and Heffernan were convicted of conspiring to cause explosions, conspiring to steal and possession of a firearm.

The court was told that McMonagle was only 18 when he was detained for 18 months for being a member of a proscribed organisation in Belfast and later jailed for five years for falsely imprisoning two people at gunpoint.

Unusually their defence barristers made no closing speeches to the jury after trying to establish that Mr Daly was an agent provocateur involved in an illegal MI5 operation in Ireland, a claim that Mr Daly denied. In the absence of the jury the judge had told the defence it was "Cloud-cuckoo-land" to suggest McMonagle was incited to come to this country. Listening to the tapes showed that he was "in charge, and enthusiastically in charge".

After the verdict, Det Supt Peter Hind of Avon and Somerset police, paid tribute to Mr Daly's courage. "As a result of what he has done he now has to live a life that none of us can comprehend. He can't even talk about his past."

Mr Daly, who worked undercover for 19 years, was responsible for inflicting a severe setback to the INLA, who assassinated Airey Neave MP outside the House of Commons in 1979, by thwarting a bombing campaign that could have had horrific consequences. As well as civilian target and military targets, the bomb plotters had talked of attacks on a ferry and oil or gas terminals. They told how they wanted to "blow those English bastards to pieces".

Mr Daly's cover was blown after he had lured the INLA active service unit to a quarry at Westbury-sub-Mendip, Somerset, where they planned to steal explosives. But McMonagle stumbled over a concealed policeman and armed officers were forced to spring their trap prematurely.

Security sources in Belfast regarded Mr Daly as an invaluable agent who had access to highly placed information about the workings of the INLA on the mainland. He was aware of most INLA terrorist plans on the mainland and as a result was able to tip off police and the security services.

Before trapping McMonagle and Heffernan Mr Daly had played a key role in foiling a plan in 1984 by Peter Jordan, a retired schoolteacher, to murder the retired SAS Lieutenant Colonel Brian Baty at his home in King's Pyon, Herefordshire. Mr Daly drove Jordan on a reconnaissance mission to the colonel's home but kept police informed of the INLA plan. Jordan, whose original target was General Sir Frank Kitson, commander of British troops during Bloody Sunday, was later jailed for 14 years for conspiring to cause an explosion.

Help hard to find for speech problems

By Ruth Gledhill

NEARLY half the children who have serious language problems in the United Kingdom are recognised as having difficulties before the age of 2. By the age of 4, more than 95 per cent are recognised as having trouble with speech and language, according to a report on the issue.

Yet fewer than two thirds receive help before they are 4 and only two thirds have obtained a professional diagnosis of their problem by the time they are 5.

Afasic, a charity representing children and young people with speech and language impairments, surveyed all its 1500 members, schools, local authorities and speech therapy departments. More than 400 parents responded.

In nearly 17 out of 20 cases, the parents were the first to notice their child had a problem. Most said they had difficulties trying to persuade professionals to take them seriously.

A repeated complaint was the lack of information about who would provide speech and language therapy for children of school age.

One parent, from Essex, said: "We have received virtually no help or guidance throughout our child's life. The only help we have got we have organised, fought for or paid for."

Theresa Quinn, chairwoman of Afasic, realised something was amiss when her son Damian had failed to develop any speech by the age of 5. Although all tests showed he was of average intelligence, Damian, now 19, was unable to communicate. The medical profession was baffled.



Theresa Quinn, chairwoman of the charity Afasic, and her son Damien, 19

Mrs Quinn said: "They just do not know what is wrong with most of these children. They have all the brain scans and nothing shows up. The best thing about Afasic was finding out we were not the only ones to have a child like this."

Damien attended a special school and is now at college in Dunstable studying computing.

Up to 500,000 children of pre-school or school age will have a communication difficulty at some stage.

The Times is appealing for donations to Afasic, founded in 1968. Afasic aims to increase awareness of these difficulties and to raise funds for speech and language therapy and for research. The charity runs a nationwide network of self-help groups and organises conferences, workshops, training and counselling.

I would like to help children and young people who have speech and language impairments:

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Comics out of their depth

First Night

Benedict Nightingale



Well, there are compensations for fans of French and Saunders. When the comediennes launched into a long routine in which they wondered if their friendship was an unacknowledged lesbian one, last night's audience at the Strand Theatre was delighted.

When Jennifer Saunders asked, "Are you saying I'm a lousy lover?", and Dawn French riposted with "The whole time we were kissing, I was fighting to stay awake", the punters roared: and not only, I think, because they included a fair quota of friends, backers, celebs and people readying themselves for a first-night party.

Pity about the play, though. *Me and Mamie O'Rourke* is one of those sweetly-sad American comedies about the lure of fantasy and the need to face hard truths. Had Chekhov been dug up and stuck before a word-processor, it might have come touchingly to life. But the author is Mary Agnes Donoghue, and she does not make quite the same demands on what are, in any case, two gallant but limited talents.

French half-lumbers, half-dimples onstage in platinum curls and a black suit, looking like a blend of Goldilocks and Daddy Bear. She is Bibi, best friend of Saunders's Louise, who mopes about in a grey corrugated cardigan with matching wellies. The latter has special reason for gloom. For one thing, she lives in the laundry-room of a grim shack somewhere outside LA. For another, her husband David is an architect whose belief in his own revolutionary genius means he has already demolished the house's dividing walls and has his destructive sights fixed on the imitation Adam fireplace.

With sullen David (Sean Chapman) meanly prowling the place with his sledgehammer, no wonder Louise takes regular vacations in Mittyville, such as fancying herself a successful dress designer. Meanwhile Bibi, whose pretence is that she could be a pioneering zoologist, waits for a call from the latest of many failed pick-ups, this time a man with whom she had a 20-minute chat at the check-out counter.

The first half rambles affably along, with occasional interruptions from nasty David. In the second, the two chums have their big row, with masks stripped off and emotional innards exposed, all to the accompaniment of the improvise-a-diagnosis sort of psychology mandatory in such plays: "You're afraid of it out there, it's easier to stay here and be victimised by David", that sort of stuff.

But who cares? When the actresses are steering us through Donoghue's wry one-liners and droll interchanges — French mixing a parody coyness with ebullience, Saunders all pinched and peeved — Robert Allan Ackerman's production makes entertaining enough fare. But when something deeper is demanded, they falter. Pain, despair and such are out of the author's range and, I fear, theirs too.

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Stockwell Strangler's escape forces enquiry

Second Broadmoor killer flees guards

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A SECOND Broadmoor patient — a mass murderer known as the Stockwell Strangler — fled from his guards yesterday while being taken out for medical treatment.

Four nurses at Broadmoor top-security hospital were suspended from duty yesterday and an enquiry has been set up to investigate the escape by two murderers on separate outings within 24 hours.

Kenneth Erskine fled as he was being taken to a lavatory in the crowded casualty department at the Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, where he had been taken for an X-ray. He ran from the building as one female nurse checked a cubicle and the second male nurse become separated from Erskine by other patients.

A four-strong enquiry team, headed by a consultant forensic psychiatrist, have begun investigating the events that led to Anthony Pilditch, a murderer, escaping from a hotel in Reading on Wednesday while on a Christmas shopping trip.

Joe Fox, assistant chief constable (operations) at Thames Valley police, said: "We are very concerned that within 24 hours two patients from Broadmoor hospital have escaped from their escorts while away from the hospital." The police are to discuss with hospital officials next week the security for patients on outings from Broadmoor.

Erskine, 30, was jailed for killing seven pensioners. He was recaptured by police in Ascot High Street after he ran across the racecourse. He was on the run for about 30 minutes. He surrendered without a struggle and was returned to Broadmoor.

Erskine was jailed for a minimum of 40 years in 1988 after he throttled seven pensioners in south London in a 15-week period.

When he was convicted the jury was told that Erskine had a mental age of 10 and was described as "a killer who liked killing". He was motivated by perverted sexual desires to kill elderly people, always leaving his victims looking as if they had died in their sleep.

Alan Franey, general manager at Broadmoor, said: "I find it difficult to understand how a patient with two escorts can abscond when the instructions are clear, that patients must be in sight of staff at all times."

The Prison Officers' Association branch at the hospital reacted angrily to the suspension of the two nurses, claiming that they had been blamed for the escape.

Police are still hunting for Pilditch, 47, who has been a patient at Broadmoor hospital since 1986.

There have been two escapes from the hospital in the past 11 years and five other patients have absconded while on outings during the past two years.



One of the houses damaged by shelling in 1914

Scarborough remembers day that changed history

BY PAUL WILKINSON

SCARBOROUGH yesterday remembered the day 79 years ago when the path of British military history was changed.

Until December 16, 1914, the Empire had fought its battles on foreign fields. On that day the Britons got their first experience of being in the frontline of battle.

Eight days earlier, the Royal Navy had trounced a German task force 8,000 miles away in the Falkland Islands. The Kaiser retaliated with a breakfast-time assault by six ships on Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool, killing 122 people.

The tweaking of Britannia's nose in her own backyard filled the nation with moral indignation. "Remember Scarborough" became a slogan that encouraged thousands to sign up to fight in the trenches and ensured stronger commitment to the war effort.

That commitment might not have been so ardent had the public known that by breaking German codes the Admiralty had obtained warning of the attack, but decided to let it go ahead. It hoped to catch the ships afterwards but the ten battleships dispatched to destroy the Germans failed to find their prey.

Britain regarded the raid as a breach of the Hague Convention forbidding bombardment of undefended sites. But Hartlepool was a naval base protected by shore batteries and Scarborough, although undefended, was identified on Admiralty charts as a fortified town. Its only defence, however, was a Norman castle.



Smith: "We thought it was our boys practising"

The action began shortly after dawn when shells fell out of the fog on a radio station. For half an hour more than 500 heavy rounds poured in and 18 people died. At the same time Hartlepool came under fiercer fire that lasted almost an hour, killing 102. The three ships that had attacked Scarborough then moved to Whitby, where two people died.

Scarborough's former deputy harbour master, Captain Sidney Smith, then aged 7, had to abandon his breakfast porridge as the first shells came in. "We could not believe it was the Germans when we first heard the gunfire, we didn't think they would come that close.

"We thought it must be our boys practising, but then we heard the explosions. One family were all killed at their breakfast table. Only the cat survived."

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Season's best turkeys worth the short wait

BY ZUBIA MASOOD

MANY shoppers will be planning to buying their Christmas turkey this weekend, but it might be a good idea to wait until early next week. Most supermarkets are bringing in fresh supplies from Monday.

Fish remains a good buy, although high winds around the coast have limited supplies of certain species and caused fluctuations in prices. Especially good are the traditional white fish and oil-rich species.

Orders for the festive period should be placed with the fishmonger now as Billingsgate market will close on Christmas Eve and does not open for business again until December 30.

Whole gurnard is available for about £1.80 a pound and if prepared properly it can rival monkfish, making an economical and delicious pre-Christmas meal.

Other advertised best buys include:

Asda: Boddington's draught (with free 35cl bottle of Asda whisky) 24 cans, £19.99; Smirnoff vodka/Bailey's Original Irish Cream 70cl, £10.49; Bacardi white rum 70cl, £10.69; cooked and peeled small prawns, £2.96 per lb.

Safeway: Deep-filled mince pies (12-pack), 98p; sliced smoked Scottish salmon (200g), £3.99.

Sainsbury: Brussels sprouts 1kg, 69p; vanilla dairy ice cream, one litre, 75p; blue stilton, £2.19 per lb.

Iceland: Pastry vol-au-vents, 36, £1.85; Lambrusco Bianco Rose 1.5lt, £2.99; half-leg knuckle of lamb, £1.89 per lb; whole cooked lobster 250g, £2.99.

Gateway: Buffet sausage rolls 6-pack, £2.39; Brussels pâté 454g, £1.49; Liebfraumilch 1.5l, £2.49; after-dinner mints 150g, 74p.

Marks and Spencer: Ready-to-bake gabatta, 69p; topside and top rump, £2.99 per lb; 2l orange juice, £1.99; plaice goujons, £1.49; sliced beetroot, 57p.

Safeway: Bulgarian cabernet red, £1.99; sauvignon red (75cl), £1.99.

Co-op: Cadbury large-selection stocking, £1.99; mini Babybel nets, £1.19; Spanish or Moroccan clementines 39p a lb; frozen petit pois 1lb, 69p; roast turkey platter 340g, £1.99.

Iceland: White chocolate gateau, £2.99; roast potatoes 2lb, 99p; yule log, 99p; sage and onion stuffing 2 x 6oz, 89p.

Tesco: Beef topside and silverside, £1.98 per lb; whole salmon 4-6lb, £2.49 per lb.

Harrods: Chestnuts 500g, £4.50; white courgettes, £2.40 per lb; haddock fillets, £3.80 per lb; broad beans, £3.50 per lb.



KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Computer threat

THE Harvard Cup Humans v Computers Chess Challenge held at the Computer Museum in Boston resulted in a convincing win for the team of six grandmasters. The final score was 27 points to the humans and nine to the computers in the six-round match.

However, there were disturbing signs for continued human domination of chess in that the computers at the stronger end of the spectrum scored four wins against their grandmaster opponents. The individual results were (out of six points possible in each case) Joel Benjamin 6; Alexander Ivanov 5; Boris Gulko, Patrick Wolff and Ilya Gurevich all 4½ and Michael Rohde 2½. The computer scores were as follows: Socrates 3; ChessSystem 2½; M-Chess Professional and Battle Chess 1½ each: Renaissance Spare ½ and Kasparov's Gambit 0.

In the game which follows Patrick Wolff, the 1993 US Champion comes to grief in a sharp line of the Sicilian Defence pioneered in The Times World Championship between Kasparov and Short. Wolff achieved a promising position from the opening but erred with 16 Nxe6 when 16 Bxg7 Nxg7 17 Nxe6 or 16 Bxg7 Bh4 17 Nxe6 both favour White.

White: Patrick Wolff
Black: M-Chess Professional
Harvard Cup Chess Challenge, 1993
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Bc4	e6
7	Bb3	b5
8	0-0	Be7
9	Qf3	Qc7
10	Qg3	b4
11	Nce2	0-0
12	Bh6	Ne8
13	c3	bxc3
14	Nxc3	Nd7
15	Bxe6	bxe6

Diagram after Black's 15th move



16	Nxe6	Qc4
17	Bxg7	Qxe6
18	Bd8+	Kxd8
19	f4	Rb8
20	b3	Ne6
21	Rae1	Qg4
22	Qxg4	Nxg4
23	h3	Ngf6
24	e5	Ne8
25	Nd5	Bh4
26	Re3	dxe5
27	fxe5+	Kg7
28	Re4	Bg5
29	Rg4	Kh6
30	Rf5	Ndf6
31	Rgxg5	Bxf5
32	Rxf5	Nxd5
33	g4	Ng7
34	Rf7	Ne6
35	Kg2	Rc8
36	Kg3	Ng5
37	Ra7	Rc3+
38	Kf2	Nxh3+
39	Ke1	Re3+
40	Kd2	Nhf4
41	Rxa6+	Kg5
42	Ra7	Re2+
43	Kc1	Nd3+

White resigns

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BBC sells to South Africa

BY OUR MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH AFRICANS are about to discover the eccentric charms of some of Britain's best-loved television heroes. But what they will make of Basil Fawlty, Blackadder and Delboy remains a big unknown.

In perhaps one of the surest signals that the cultural boycott of South Africa is over, the BBC confirmed yesterday that it had sold eight of its most successful programmes to the country's two leading broadcasters. Negotiations are well under way for the sale of five more.

The export drive — made possible by the lifting last month of Equity's ban on the sale of material to South Africa — is believed to have earned £500,000 for the corporation so far. Eventually the market is expected to be worth millions of pounds to the BBC and commercial television programme-makers.

Leading article, page 21

Drama ruling tests role of TV watchdog

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 4 has been strongly criticised by the Broadcasting Standards Council for repeating an episode of the drama series *The Camomile Lawn* that it had censured for obscene language.

The council, which monitors television taste and decency, has imposed one of its toughest sanctions: requiring the broadcaster to publish a summary of its criticisms in a national newspaper. Lady Howe, the chairwoman, also took the unprecedented step of publishing a copy of a stiffly worded formal letter to Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of Channel 4.

In the letter, Lady Howe said she was disturbed by the use of the word "f***" so soon after the watershed, and the fact that Channel 4 had forgotten to transmit a warning about the sexually explicit nature of the programme before it went on air.

She wrote: "[The council] hopes that the interests of that significant section of the audience which, our research has shown, continues to feel affronted by the use of "f***", will be better acknowledged in the future."

Lady Howe pointed out that the codes of practice of the council and Independent Television Commission called for a gradual rather than instant change to more adult material at 9pm. "It may be that a programme will be acceptable at 10.30pm that would not be suitable at 9pm," she said.

In its defence, Channel 4 said that the language used did not go beyond the limits appropriate to a drama serial broadcast in the latter part of the evening. The council rejected further complaints about sexual behaviour, including nudity, and about the use of "Christ" as an expletive in the five-part adaptation of Mary Wesley's novel *The Camomile Lawn*, set in the Second World War.

The tough criticism of Channel 4 will reopen the debate about the nature and effectiveness of the watershed as a means of protecting young viewers from sexually explicit and violent programmes.

Some clean-up campaigners want the watershed to be later, such as in France where it is 10.30pm. Broadcasters argue, however, that 9pm is widely accepted by the public. In a survey 78 per cent of parents correctly identified the time.

Channel 4's decision to repeat *The Camomile Lawn* at 9pm, unedited, in spite of a previous ruling on the same episode, greatly undermines the authority of the council, which has been accused of being a watchdog with no teeth. It is a voluntary body and can only advise and criticise broadcasters.

The ruling is expected to result in further calls for the council to be scrapped. Many broadcasters believe it merely serves to confuse viewers wanting to complain about programmes by adding yet another body to the abundance of existing statutory regulators. Peter Brooke, the Heritage Secretary, has already indicated that it may be merged with other bodies into an all-embracing authority.

☐ The Broadcasting Standards Council upheld complaints about scenes of sex and violence in ITV's critically acclaimed crime series, *Cracker*, starring Robbie Coltrane. It rejected complaints about bad language in the programme, which was screened after the watershed.



A scene from *The Camomile Lawn*, the series based on Mary Wesley's novel



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Avant-garde art at risk from grant cuts

New art, including avant-garde theatre, visual art and music projects, will bear the brunt of the Arts Council's cut in grant, while national companies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Opera House are safe from large subsidy reductions. In order to balance its books next year, the Arts Council has decided to withdraw money from its projects and schemes departments across all art forms, it announced yesterday.

This means that small arts groups, many of which focus on young people, avant-garde or multi-racial art, will be the ones to suffer. Grants to young writers, dramatists and individual musicians are also threatened. While the new subsidising plans may please the art establishment and those known to be anti-avant garde within the heritage department, it will come as a blow to those on the artistic fringe. Announcing the new plans yesterday, Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, described the 1.7 per cent cut in Arts Council budget — worth £7 million in real terms — as "savage".

Double killer jailed

A man who shot dead his former girl friend and their baby has been jailed for life. David Edwards did not know that Marina Turvey was pregnant when they split up. She refused to let him see Charlene, who was aged seven months when she died. Edwards, 22, of Luton, changed his plea to guilty of murdering Mrs Turvey, 19, after previously admitting manslaughter. He was jailed for a further eight years after the prosecution at St Albans Crown Court accepted his guilty plea to the manslaughter of Charlene on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Colleges examine rape

University leaders are to draw up new guidelines on student disciplinary hearings after the King's College London rape trial. A group set up by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals will advise on which offences universities should attempt to handle through internal disciplinary procedures. Professor Graham Zellick, law specialist and principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, will head the group. He said: "Universities cannot confine themselves to prosecuting 'academic' offences and would be rightly criticised if they did."

Slander award reduced

A record £150,000 slander award against a doctor who called her male colleague a groper in front of patients was reduced to £50,000 by the Court of Appeal. The three appeal judges said that Malcolm Smith, 38, had been entitled to a substantial sum, but that the award against Alanah Houston, 49, had been "excessive and out of proportion to the damage suffered". Dr Smith's slander action in the High Court had followed an outburst by Dr Houston at their surgery in Northampton. She had also telephoned police and accused him of sexual harassment.

Townshend on the town



The rock star Pete Townshend and his wife Karen left a West End premiere together despite rumours that their marriage may end. Townshend, right, who married 26 years ago, has blamed drink and work problems for their difficulties. They were attending *Me and Mamie O'Rourke*, which stars Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders.

Review, page 5

Heathrow war begins

The first salvo in what is certain to be a long battle over the building of Heathrow's fifth terminal was fired when the British Airports Authority submitted its outline case to the Government. Local councils and environmental groups are preparing to counter it at a public enquiry into the proposals in the spring. BAA submitted a planning application in February and, if permission is granted, the first stage of the terminal would be open in 2002 and completed by 2013. It would be capable of handling 30 million passengers each year.

Escape lawyer cleared

Patricia Marsh, 23, a legal executive from Liverpool, was cleared by Manchester Crown Court of helping Strangeways prisoners to escape from the court where they were being tried on riot charges in February. The trial was told that Marsh had smuggled a pen-torch to her client Anthony Bush, 29, less than a hour before five of the prisoners escaped through the Manchester court roof. Marsh admitted helping two of the prisoners a day later. She was bailed to reappear on January 14, by which time probation reports should have been prepared.

Carreras cancer role



The Spanish tenor José Carreras, right, who fought off leukaemia, is to open Sheffield University's £4.5 million Institute for Cancer Research next week. The institute is based at the medical school at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. Carreras, 46, who will also receive a honorary degree from the university after singing at Sheffield Arena, has raised millions for cancer research.

Man run over twice

The drivers of two tipper lorries were arrested after an accident in which an elderly man was knocked down and killed. Police said that they had been held in connection with failing to stop after an accident. The victim, believed to be about 85, was crossing the road at a junction in Crystal Palace, south London. Police said that he was hit by one truck and another ran over him. A street-trader, Stanley Morris, said: "I saw a body lying bleeding in the gutter. I couldn't believe how the world was carrying on. Everyone was walking or driving past, ignoring him."

May Day to stay

Plans to abolish Britain's May Day bank holiday have been abandoned after a year-long investigation by ministers. The holiday will continue to be held on the first Monday of May, except in 1995, when it will be moved to the second Monday to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. The decision to retain the holiday follows pressure from business leaders, who said that a change would disrupt their working pattern. It had been suggested that the holiday be moved to the autumn, to celebrate Trafalgar Day.

Opinion poll's verdict delivers blow to Chancellor's popularity

Public condemns impact of first Clarke Budget

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE public has delivered one of the most unfavourable verdicts ever on Kenneth Clarke's Budget, rejecting both its strategy and most of the individual measures.

Contrary to Mr Clarke's claim ten days ago that the Budget had been well received by the public, the latest MORI poll for *The Times*, undertaken last weekend, unambiguously points to the opposite conclusion. Mr Clarke's statement is the most unpopular since the mid-1970s, apart from Norman Lamont's final Budget last March.

Mr Clarke's personal rating is also around the lowest for any Chancellor, especially one giving his first Budget. Barely three in ten are satisfied with the way he is doing his job, while almost a half are dissatisfied. The ratings of Lords Healey, Howe and Lawson were all consistently higher. This contrasts with Mr Clarke's high standing among Tory MPs and his initial success at Westminster in presenting the Budget.

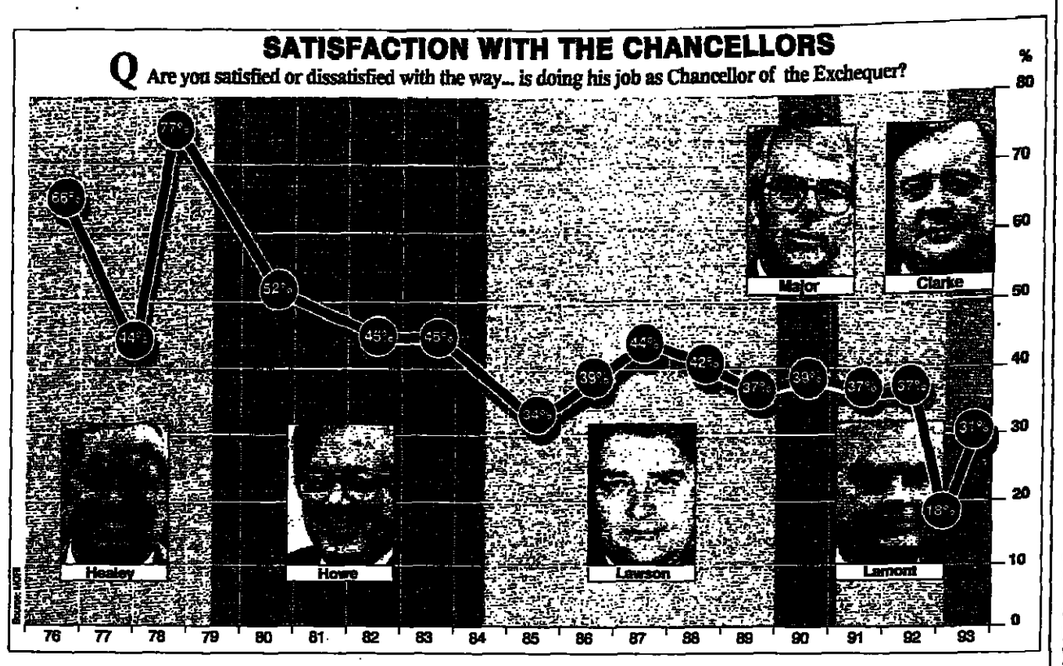
The Budget has made no difference to the Tories' ratings or to economic optimism. By a two-to-one margin, the public believes that in the long term the Government's policies will not improve the state of Britain's economy. The net unfavourable balance of minus 29 points compares with the low point of minus 31 points after last March's Budget, and it is much worse than the ratings throughout the Thatcher years. The high point of plus 18 points was during the late 1980s boom.

People also believe by large margins that the Budget is bad for the country and for them personally. In both cases this is the worst reception since the mid-1970s, apart from last March. More than three-fifths believe that the Budget is bad for them personally, and only one in six believes it will be a good thing for them. By contrast, the public saw most of the tax-cutting Budgets of the mid-1980s as good for them personally.

The public thinks the Budget proposals will be less bad for the country than for them personally. About three in ten think the Budget will be good for the country, while just over a half believe it will be bad. The net balance of minus 25 points compares with minus 46 points on the personal impact of the measures.

The regular monthly index of economic optimism also remains negative, reflecting public doubts about the nature of the recovery. This index, measuring the balance believing that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, is now minus six points, broadly the same level as throughout the autumn.

People are also highly critical of specific Budget measures. The confirmation that VAT on domestic fuel will be imposed from next April has been rejected by a margin of nearly nine-to-one. The new tax on insurance premiums is opposed by nearly three and a half-to-one, and limits on the automatic right to unemployment benefits by two-to-one. The freeze on public sector pay is rejected by nearly two-to-one.

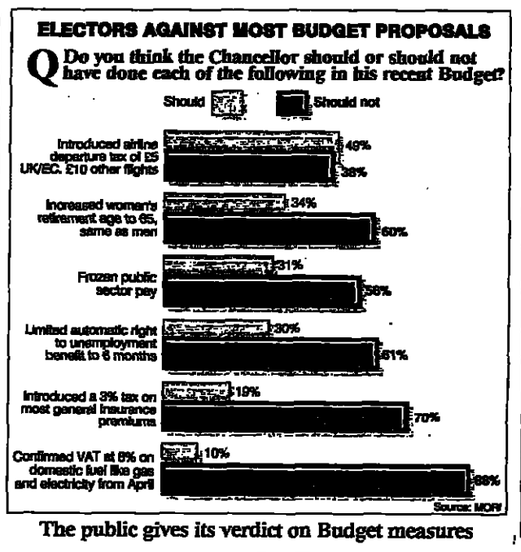


The proposal to raise the retirement age for women to 65, the same as for men, is opposed by three-fifths of the public and backed by only a third. There is, however, a difference in the views of men and women on this issue. The net balance opposed to the proposal rises from minus 17 points among men to minus 33 points among women. Opposition to equalising the retirement age is highest among 35- to 64-year-olds and among working-class people.

The only proposal of the six tested which was backed by the public is the introduction of an airline departure tax on flights out of Britain. Some 49 per cent back the measure, while 38 per cent oppose it. This may reflect a belief that the tax will be paid mainly by foreigners and the wealthy.

□ *MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,738 adults at 137 constituency sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on December 9 to 13. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or refuse to name a party (3 per cent).*

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The public gives its verdict on Budget measures

Upturn for Major comforts Tories

BY PETER RIDDELL

John Major's rating as Prime Minister has picked up slightly from the record low levels of the summer, but there are no signs of any recovery in overall support for the Tories.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* puts the Tories on 29 per cent, the same level as over the previous seven months.

Labour is at 47 per cent for the second month running. There has been a small shift towards Labour from the Liberal Democrats, whose rating has slipped from 25 to 20 per cent since the late summer.

The only comfort for the Government is the tentative evidence of an upturn in Mr Major's rating. The proportion satisfied with the way he is doing his job as Prime Minister is now 24 per cent, compared with 21 per cent last month, and a low of 19 per cent in mid-summer. This is the highest rating since April.

There has been a shift in Mr Major's favour among Conservative Party supporters. The net balance of Conservatives, those satisfied less those dissatisfied, is now plus 23 points compared with plus 11 points in September. However, Mr Major's current rating is still much lower than it was during his first two years as Prime Minister.

There has also been no improvement in the Government's rating. Only 13 per cent are satisfied with the way in which it is running the country, with 80 per cent dissatisfied. John Smith has a small positive rating as Labour Leader, but a quarter of the public has still not made up its mind about him.

Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, enjoys the largest positive rating in the poll, though the margin of satisfaction, now plus 13 points, has slipped during the autumn months. This may be because the Liberal Democrats have not attracted much publicity since their party conference in Torquay three months ago.

Gatt deal 'superb outcome' for UK

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday hailed the Gatt agreement as a "superb" deal for Britain which would create 400,000 extra jobs over the next decade and bring down prices.

The Prime Minister claimed that the settlement, reached after seven years of talks, provided a "platform for recovery, growth and jobs", and Britain stood to be one of the biggest gainers.

In an upbeat Commons statement Mr Major said that the deal would help British industry by bringing down export barriers; would give manufacturers greater protection against copyright piracy, and would bring down the price of food, electronics and other manufactured goods. "After seven years of long, hard and often fraught negotiations, it is a superb outcome," he said. "It removes the threats of collapse of the world trade system."

Britain was the world's fifth largest exporter of goods and commercial services, exported more per person than the United States or Japan and already had some of the most open markets, he said. "So we stand therefore to be one of the biggest gainers from cuts in worldwide tariffs, quotas and other restrictions."

An independent study had indicated that a new Gatt agreement could add up to 4 per cent to Britain's national output, generating up to 400,000 extra jobs in the next ten years, Mr Major said. In addition it would bring down prices for consumers, particularly of food, electronics and other manufactured goods.

He said that the Government had played a significant part in achieving the agreement. "The Government has fought consistently to keep negotiations going."

Europe had already started to reduce farm production subsidies now costing each family more than £20 a week. If passed on to the consumer, the changes agreed to the common agricultural policy would lead to price cuts equal to 20p off a pound of beef, and 6p off a pound of butter.

John Smith, the Labour Leader, called for help for African countries and action to stamp out child labour.

MPs call for Bank reforms

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE pressure on the Chancellor to grant more autonomy to the Bank of England intensified yesterday with a report from an all-party committee of MPs calling for sweeping changes to the relationship with the Treasury.

The report, from the influential Commons Treasury Select Committee, will be particularly closely examined in Whitehall because of the striking consensus achieved between all but one of its 11 members. Only Diane Abbott, the left-wing MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, refused to sign up to the report's recommendations.

The report calls for the Bank of England to be given full responsibility for the operation of monetary policy, while being made directly accountable to Parliament for its actions for the first time. The Bank would be legally required to aim for stable prices "as its primary objective" and would set the level of interest rates. However, it explicitly rejects the German model of a fully independent central bank because of the lack of democratic controls of the Bundesbank.

The committee's enquiry was initiated in March in the wake of sterling's withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism. Lord Lawson of Blaby and Norman Lamont have also both called for greater autonomy for the Bank to give more credibility to Britain's monetary policies on international financial markets.

Pennington, page 27

In Parliament

THE Commons rises today for the Christmas recess until January 11. Yesterday Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, announced that the Easter break will be from March 31, the Thursday before Good Friday, until Tuesday, April 12.

Commons today (9.30): Christmas recess debates on a variety of topics.

Lords (11): Debate on design of banknotes and coins.





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Gatt deal 'superb outcome' for UK

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDEN

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Commons warning for Major

Lamont leads alarm among Tory right

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont clashed with John Major over Ulster yesterday, in a signal that the Tory right intends to keep sniping at his leadership.

The former Chancellor questioned Mr Major's commitment to the union between Britain and Northern Ireland in the light of the joint declaration between London and Dublin on the future of the province.

Although Mr Lamont attracted little obvious support from his backbench colleagues, his intervention was an indication that the anti-Maastricht "patriots" are uneasy about the accord and are prepared to harry Mr Major anew if he shows signs of watering down his pledge to make paramount the wishes of the Ulster majority.

James Cran, vice-chairman of the Tory backbench Northern Ireland committee, was one of the anti-Maastricht ringleaders and Andrew Hunter, the chairman, also had his doubts about the treaty. After fighting off a challenge from Major loyalists in an election last week, they have a platform from which to assail the Prime Minister if he concedes too much to the nationalist cause in his quest for a lasting peace.

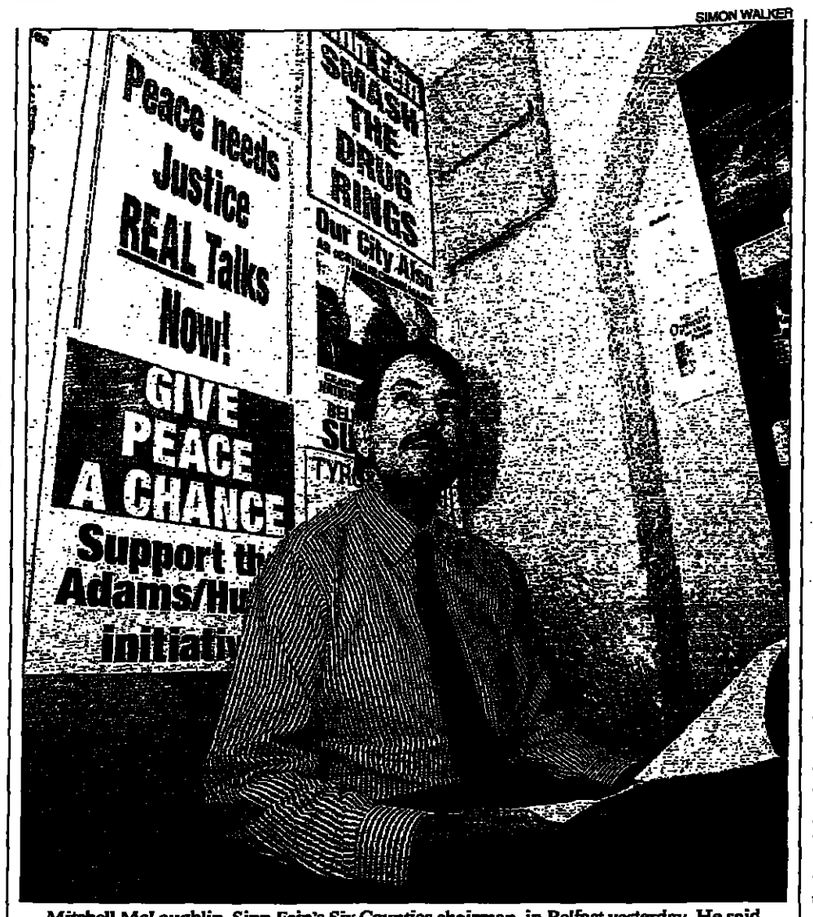
Pro-union Tory hardliners have privately said they will be "watching like hawks" as Mr Major seeks to open negotiations with Sinn Fein. They fear that in the inevitable horsetrading that would follow a ceasefire, he may be tempted to dilute his promises to the people of Ulster. But with Mr Major enjoying Labour and Liberal Democrat support for his peace mission, the dissidents stand little chance of repeating their Maastricht successes in the Commons.

Mr Lamont, who was sacked in May, has increasingly allied himself with right-wing dissidents. Yesterday in the Commons he asked Mr Major: "Do you recall your admirable speech to the Conservative Party conference in which you said that the union between Ulster and Britain was of immense importance to the Conservative Party, echoing your comment at the election that you stood with passion and commitment for the unity of this country? That stands a little oddly beside a statement that this country has no strategic interest in Northern Ireland."

Mr Major denied that his previous comments stood "remotely oddly" with the declaration. "That joint declaration reaffirmed in unmistakable terms the commitment that we have consistently given to the people of Northern Ireland and that I reaffirm now," he said.

Sinn Fein reaction, page 1
Peter Brookes, page 16

SIMON WALKER



Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's Six Counties chairman, in Belfast yesterday. He said people felt the declaration may not be any more successful than past peace initiatives

Dublin quietly satisfied with early reaction

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

SENIOR officials in Dublin voiced quiet satisfaction yesterday with the initial response in Ulster and in Britain to the joint declaration on the future of Northern Ireland.

Ministerial aides were heartened by Sinn Fein's reluctance to pass instant judgment, saying it gave time for pressure to be applied to the IRA to lay down its arms and send its representatives to the negotiating table.

They were also encouraged by the muted reaction by the Ulster Unionist Party to the document and by the Commons and media acclaim for John Major's initiative.

Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, said yesterday he was not disheartened at Sinn Fein's guarded response and was pleased by the reaction from the Ulster Unionist Party. It was important "for everyone to take time" to study the seven-page paper.

Although Mr Reynolds remained careful to avoid triumphalism, observers in Dublin could scarcely conceal their glee at the outcome of the negotiations with London. One insider said: "It is a dream for Albert. No Prime Minister before him has secured from Britain such an overt recognition of nationalist aspirations.

"But he is not being triumphalist. He is making plain that he respects the unionist guarantee and the unionist traditions in the North."

Nor has Dublin any quarrel with the way Mr Major has sold the package to his party and the unionists, repeatedly emphasising that there could be no change in the North without the backing of its people.

"London had to deliver the unionists," a source said, referring to Mr Major's need to placate Northern Ireland parties who want to retain their links with Westminster. "Dublin's job was somewhat more difficult. We had to deliver the men of violence... We always expected a delay."

Sinn Fein's initial stated reaction to the peace declaration was disappointment. But it veered well away from rejection. The reasons for the unhappiness were complex and not entirely connected with the contents of the accord.

Indeed, Sinn Fein was pleased with much of the seven-page declaration. It was upset, according to Dublin insiders, because the declaration had not provoked greater anger from the unionists.

The Rev Ian Paisley's fire and brimstone were predictable. Sinn Fein needed an eruption from James Molyneaux, the Ulster Unionist leader, to prove to its more belligerent elements that it had made a serious advance. The cries of "sell-out" needed to be louder. Norman Lamont's intervention yesterday on behalf of the Tory right may help a little.

Even so, in Dublin the mood persisted that Mr Reynolds had struck a huge blow for the nationalist cause.

Sinn Fein's dilemma is obvious. If it turns down "talks about talks", it risks losing public sympathy altogether. And if the peace attempt fails, the IRA can expect an intensification of the British military effort against them.

"They do not want to say no," a Dublin source says. Hence the organisation's statement yesterday that consideration would take time and the disclosure that the IRA is to hold its first full convention for some 25 years to discuss the declaration.



Paisley: response to the declaration was expected

Irish press gives warm welcome

BY EMMA WILKINS

IRISH newspapers gave the joint declaration an enthusiastic reception yesterday and called on terrorist organisations on all sides to take up the offer of peace.

The Irish Times said the Downing Street statement was "a measured and subtle challenge to parties and paramilitaries of all shades". The newspaper praised John Major and Albert Reynolds for achieving a balance which, it said, many had thought impossible.

"They set out to demonstrate that the British Government was in no sense an enemy of the nationalist tradition and the Irish Government was in no sense an enemy of the unionist tradition. By and large they succeeded," it said.

The *Irish Independent* welcomed the declaration and said it had settled the question of Irish self-determination "brilliantly, ingeniously, but also with due respect for democratic principles and political realities". Only "the foolish, the blinkered and the intransigent" could quarrel with its content.

In a note of caution, the newspaper warned of similar excitement after Sunningdale in 1973 and Hillsborough in 1985, when high hopes of peace were dashed with political opposition and continued terrorist outrages.

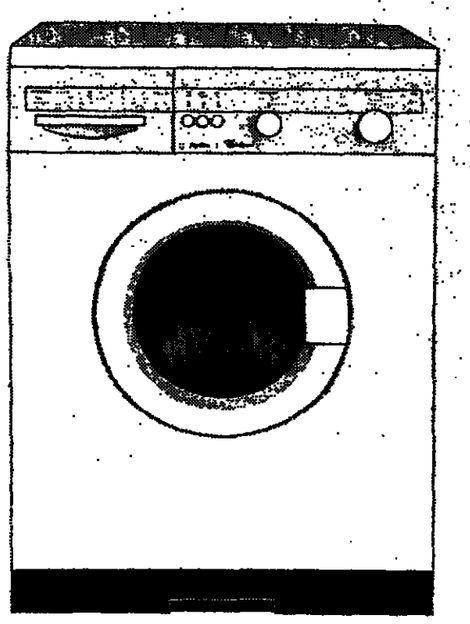
But the strength of the joint declaration was that it offered unionists better guarantees than they had historically enjoyed because "the guarantees come from the Republic as well as from Britain", it said.

The *Irish Press* paid tribute to the tenacity of Mr Reynolds and his deputy, Dick Spring, in their pursuit of peace. "They have well earned the standing ovation accorded them by their colleagues in Dáil Eireann yesterday," the newspaper said in its editorial.

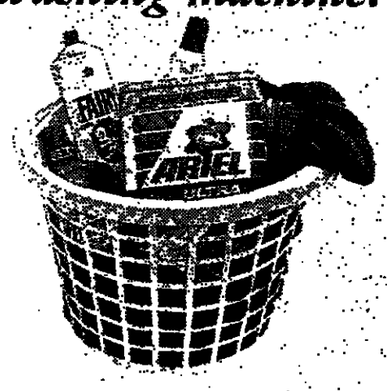
All three newspapers agreed that the reaction of Sinn Fein and the IRA was now crucial.

The *Irish Press* was encouraged that the republican reaction spoke of the need to study and analyse the text of the declaration. "It seems, therefore, that at the end of a momentous day there is every reason to believe that peace may be possible," the newspaper said.

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COMMISSION

The Citizen's Charter Local Authority Indicators

The Audit Commission has specified a list of indicators of performance which every local authority is directed to report under the Local Government Act 1992. This direction, the Publication of Information (Standards of Performance) Direction 1993, gives details and definitions for each indicator. It specifies the authorities which are required to complete the indicators.

This direction applies to the financial year 1994-5 and the indicators for this are to be published in a newspaper by 31 December 1995.

Copies of the legal direction may be obtained from:

The Audit Commission,
Nicholson House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS12
Telephone Number (0272) 236757, Fax Number (0272) 794100

The Commission has also published a paper, "Staying on Course". This explains the rationale for the indicators and contains a full list of them. It may be obtained from HMSO Publications (Tel: 071 873 9090), price £6.00. Local authorities have also been asked to make copies of both documents available at information points and/or libraries.

The Times apologises for incorrectly printing this announcement on 16th Dec 1993.

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Formidable paramilitary force ponders surrender of its weapons

IRA peers with suspicion down the path to peace

By Michael Evans and Nicholas Watt

■ The ultimate authority for approving an end to IRA violence rests in the hands of about 100 members of its army convention, comprising delegates from North and South

SEVEN IRA leaders, elected in secrecy to mastermind an organisation of up to 300 bombers and gunmen and about 700 other activists, are facing the most crucial decision of their lives. They voted to sue for peace, but are they now prepared to hand over their weapons?

The Provisional IRA army council, whose chief of staff is believed to be Kevin McKenna, a 51-year-old former hunger striker who lives just south of the Irish border, will be at the centre of the decision-making process.

Ultimate authority for approving an end to violence, however, will rest in the hands of about 100 members of the IRA army convention, the supreme policy-making body comprising delegates from every unit north and south of the border. The convention, which has met only twice, in 1970 and 1986, elects a 12-man army executive that in turn elects the main strategy body, the army council.

The IRA's military-style structure underlines the manner in which the terrorist organisation has run its bombing campaign since 1969. Its efficiency and sophistication has advanced greatly in the past 15 years.

The IRA's training manual, known as the Green Book, demands "total allegiance without reservation". It says: "All recruits declare that they shall obey all orders issued to them by their superior officers and by the army authority." Volunteers trained in the use of arms "must fully understand that guns are dangerous, and their main purpose is to take human life".

The IRA was restructured in the late 1970s, with the introduction of tight cell formations to improve security. Instead of a gunman knowing the identity of his superiors, or the names of the explosives experts and quartermasters, he would be in touch only with the three or four other members of his cell.

The collapse of the 1975 ceasefire, which began in February but lasted only a few months, also brought a shift in the power base from the south to the north and from older to younger men. The army council had until then been dominated by southerners: in 1976 a northern command was formed, providing the vehicle for rising republican figures such as Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness to pursue their ambitions.

The army council, which believes it is the rightful government of Ireland, chooses a chief of staff. Some members of the council have

> 'The military structure of the IRA underlines the manner in which it has run its bombing campaign'

Sinn Fein and IRA roles, others have no Sinn Fein credentials. What the council signs up to, they agree to honour as a man.

Planning and implementation of army council decisions are carried out by the general headquarters staff (GHQ), based in Dublin. GHQ is the link between the army council and northern command. Several members of the army council are on the GHQ staff.

GHQ has eight departments, consisting of the quartermaster and directors of engineering, publicity, operations, finance, intelligence, security and training.

Northern command covers 11 counties, the six counties of Northern Ireland and five border counties. Louth, Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim and Donegal. It has its own commanding officer, director of operations and quartermaster. It can plan operations without direct reference to the army council, which decides on strategy but does not have to approve every terrorist act.

It is probable, however, that in some cases, such as the Brighton bomb, northern command followed orders from the army council.

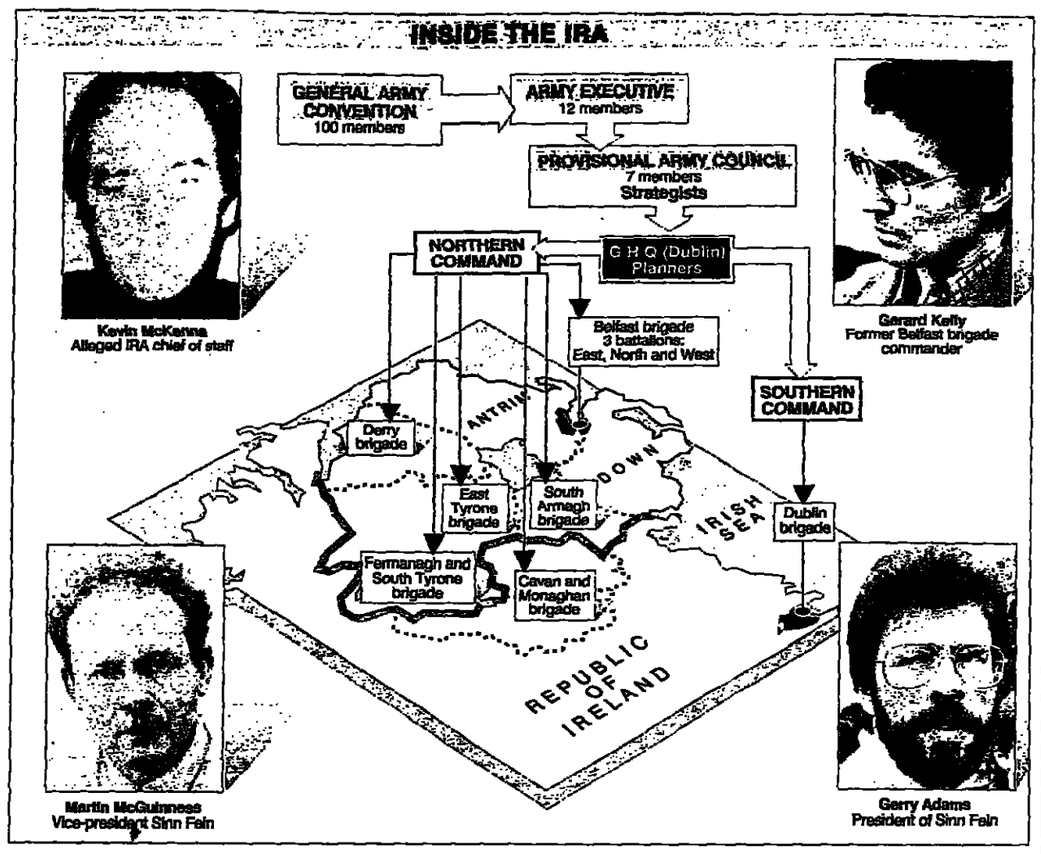
Southern command, which covers 21 counties, has only one brigade, based in Dublin, but there are a number of rural active service units. Southern command's role has been reduced to that of quartermaster to northern command.

One key figure, involved in the recent contacts with government representatives, is Gerard Kelly, an escaper from the Maze prison in 1983 who was recaptured in Amsterdam in 1986 and extradited to complete his prison sentence for causing explosions. Regarded as bright, he was promoted to a senior position in the republican movement about 18 months ago.

He and Martin McGuinness were the two named republicans involved in the secret contacts dating back to 1990. The linking of Kelly and McGuinness was significant because it brought together, respectively, the two principal figures from Belfast and Londonderry.

The seven men on the army council are known to the security forces, but make sure they are never seen together.

Sinn Fein reaction, page 1
Peter Brookes, page 16



Ulster gunmen on the back foot

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE war between the security forces and the IRA has become more sophisticated as each side improves its techniques and counter-techniques.

While the majority of the IRA godfathers have succeeded in evading long jail sentences, the police and security forces have achieved significant successes against key bombers and IRA activists.

The large number of IRA members languishing in jail may have been a factor when Sinn Fein and IRA leaders showed interest in pursuing peace contacts with government representatives as far back as 1990.

More than 1,000 IRA and other republican members are in jail, mostly in Northern Ireland. Another 30 suspected IRA terrorists are on remand awaiting trial.

As one security official in Belfast said: "There are more IRA members in prison than outside." Since 1969 when the present troubles began, about 350 IRA operatives have been killed, although there has never been a shortage of volunteers to fill the dead men's shoes.

There are still up to 300 principal activists including bombers, bomb-makers and gunmen, although membership of the IRA is probably about 1,000, when people who keep safe houses or store explosives are counted.

The police and intelligence services in Ulster and on the mainland have made many arrests in the past 14 months that have helped the battle against the IRA. Since October last year more than 20 have been arrested and charged in Britain.

The number partly reflects the high level of terrorist activity in the United Kingdom in that time.

A special unit in Belfast consisting of representatives from Customs, Inland Revenue, the Northern Ireland Office, the Treasury, and other Government departments, is also beginning to make inroads into IRA funding. Most of the money required for continuing their campaign, totalling several million pounds a year, is raised from crime or legitimate business investments.

The authorities are attempting to delve into IRA business activities, believed to include real estate and restaurants.

The IRA moved into legitimate businesses in about 1986 when it became clear that aid from abroad was drying up. Noraid, the American fund-raising organisation, still provides money, but it has to declare its offerings to the US Inland Revenue Service.

The security authorities have also captured huge quantities of arms and explosives in recent years. Much of the equipment was home-made, but included AK47 Kalashnikovs supplied by Libya in the 1980s and significant quantities of Semtex military explosive.

One concern is that even if the Sinn Fein-IRA leadership agrees to a ceasefire, disaffected members could switch their loyalties and their guns to one of the breakaway republican organisations.

These include the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) and the Republican Sinn Fein (RSF), which broke from the provisional IRA in 1986.

Guildford Four film a plea for peace, says director

By Alison Roberts
Arts Reporter

A FILM about the Guildford Four had its world premiere in Dublin last night, the day after the joint declaration on Northern Ireland.

In the Name of the Father — an adaptation of memoirs by Gerard Conlon, one of the Four — is bound to stir deep feelings. In October 1989, the Four were freed from jail after more than 14 years when the Appeal Court quashed as unsafe their convictions for the 1974 Guildford pub bombing.

The film, directed by Jim Sheridan, includes violent scenes in which police extract false confessions after a rushed search for culprits. Mr Conlon is shown signing a statement admitting the bombing only because an interrogator threatens to kill his father. Paul Hill, another of the Four, is forced to confess with a gun in his mouth.

The film alleges that there was perjury at the highest level of the police force, and there is a romantic portrait of the real Guildford bomber.

Daniel Day Lewis is a deeply sympathetic Gerard Conlon. Emma Thompson co-stars.

In America, trailers have provoked huge interest, with cinemagoers booing and hissing the film's police officers and judges.

However, Sheridan, who also directed the Oscar-winning *My Left Foot*, said that the film's title partly invoked "a plea for an end to the circle of violence".

He said: "It's a cry from the heart — *In the Name of the Father* — like at the start of a prayer. If you are not allowed to express your feelings, a bomb will do it for you.

"Societies and religions are structured around father images," he said. "England became a kind of father figure whom the Irish have been trying to confront for a long time."

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Afrikaners and Zulus bury old enmity to defy ANC

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN DURBAN

■ The day on which whites long marked their ascendancy over blacks in South Africa has become a cultural battleground. Yesterday saw a new alliance emerge



Voortrekkers blaze away at Dingane's warriors during the Battle of Blood River, a day marked ever since by Afrikaners

THROUGHOUT South Africa political movements of right and left strove yesterday to outdo one another in their celebration of the Day of the Vow, previously known to generations of whites as Dingane's Day.

The event it celebrates was the assertion of white supremacy over the black hordes. On February 3, 1838, the Zulu king, Dingane, turned on the Voortrekker leaders, Piet Retief, Gert Maritz and 65 of their followers who had come to negotiate with him. All 67 were murdered.

Impis were then sent to wipe out other Boer intruders: within a week more than 600 men, women and children had been butchered. Andries Pretorius, the trekker leader, led his men to avenge this massacre in the Battle of Blood River on December 16, the Boer army solemnly vowing to God that if He gave them victory, that day would be kept holy throughout posterity.

The vow has been kept, but by the 1970s it had become an increasing embarrassment to a government no longer keen to boast of how nakedly political power over other races had come from the barrel of a gun. Worse, the forces of black resistance began to mark the day in a spirit of defiance, for it had always rankled that whites should so crassly celebrate a black defeat.

With the races thus celebrating the day with opposing motives of military and cultural bitterness, it became clearer with every passing year that, far from uniting the country, this public holiday was poisoning the Christmas period with freshly emphasised racial division.

But the government could hardly abolish the holiday: to do so would mean Calvinist Afrikanerdom was going back on its solemn vow to the Almighty. Among the *volk* the celebration was increasingly taken over by the more hardline elements, eager to seize upon the slightest sign of government betrayal of the white heritage. So, hoist with its own petard, the government has sought refuge in successive attempts to rename and refocus the celebration — none of which has worked.

This year, the last summer of white South Africa, the celebrations reached a new frenzy of rhetoric and farce. The Afrikaners' holy place, the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria, was corralled off a day in advance by Eugene Terre'Blanche and his Afrikaner Resistance Movement. Yesterday the monument was encircled by a laager of ox wagons while Mr Terre'Blanche gave a warning that the Boer nation was again ready for war if need be.

Meanwhile, at Blood River itself, an even more emotive ceremony was led by General Constand Viljoen of the Afrikaner Volksfront in the same spirit of resistance to black majority rule. The general's wife, Rusty, read out the vow to the faithful who had made it across dirt roads to this remote part of Natal.

Not far away, a gathering of about 10,000 Zulus were urged by King Goodwill Zwelithini, their present monarch, to defy the African National Congress and the interim constitution. Speaking at Isandhlwana, the site of the Zulus' greatest victory — over the British army in 1879 — and flanked by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, King Goodwill declared: "I will die rather than insult the memory of my great ancestral kings by handing over the land of their people to our political enemies. You must be prepared to pay that price for this second invasion."

King Goodwill said the government and the African National Congress had removed the word KwaZulu from the draft constitution. "In other words", he said, "Zulus no longer have a place for the Zulus. We will not be subjugated by a political party which wants to destroy us simply because it wants to rule. We can give no quarter until we achieve our right to self-determination. Until we get what is justly ours, there can be no rest for any true Zulu. Resist. I command you. Resist, I implore you."

For Chief Buthelezi, the point of such a ceremony now is to assert the pride of the Zulu people. Not least of the present ironies is that Chief Buthelezi, now in alliance with Messrs Terre'Blanche and Viljoen, should have celebrated December 16 in a spirit so contrary to theirs.

Not to be left out, the ANC chose to honour its own guerrilla army, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), by their own celebration in Durban, though in the more sedate surroundings of Currie's Fountain cricket ground. It was a low-key affair, dominated by Harry Gwala, the militant Natal ANC leader, who used the occasion to threaten Chief Buthelezi with being torn limb from limb if he did not bow to the will of the people.

In fact, it is the end of the line for Umkhonto, for it is about to be absorbed into the South African Army.

It was, presumably, the last Dingane's Day ever: no good reason can be imagined for such a holiday to continue if racial reconciliation is to be achieved in South Africa. If so, its ending will be regretted by some bitter-end whites, and by some blacks who would like to assert their own victory that is now upon us. But mainly it will be the lovers of low farce who feel the most acute nostalgia at the passing of the Day of the Vow.

Leading article, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pilot error blamed for Airbus disaster

Paris: Airbus Industrie, the European aircraft manufacturer, is to modify switches on the flight deck of A320 airbuses after an enquiry reported yesterday that pilot error was the likely cause of the 1992 crash on Mont Saint Odile, eastern France, in which 87 people died (Charles Bremner writes).

The commission reported three possible causes for the disaster in which an Air Inter flight from Lyons, approaching Strasbourg, descended four times faster than the expected 800 feet per minute. Alain Monnier, who chaired the commission, said the most likely causes were that the pilots confused the two modes of descent, governing rate and angle, commanded by a single button on the instrument panel or set the wrong descent rate. The third possibility, which he considered unlikely, was a fault in the automatic pilot.

Bernard Bosson, the Transport Minister, last night announced plans to give French Airbus pilots more training in team work.

JFK files offer

Paris: President Castro has offered to open Cuban security service files on the murder of President Kennedy, which he described as a conspiracy. A Cuban security official has said that two Cuban anti-revolutionaries and three Chicago gangsters fired at Kennedy. *(Reuter)*

Bugging claim

Athens: A report to Greece's parliament has accused Constantine Mitsotakis, a former prime minister, and his daughter, Dora Bakoyianni, a former culture minister, of involvement in illegal eavesdropping, such as phone tapping. *(Reuter)*

Leader treated

Minsk: President Shushkevich of Belorussia fell ill and was taken to hospital after being accused of embezzlement and misuse of public funds at a parliamentary hearing. He denied the allegations. *(Reuter)*

Three killed

Oakland, California: Three people, including a police officer, were killed in a gun battle that broke out after a dog owner refused to turn over his pit bull to an animal control officer. The owner and his father also died. *(Reuter)*

President dies

Washington: President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau of Fiji has died, aged 75, in a Washington hospital where he was being treated for a third time for a blood disorder, a Fiji embassy spokesman said here. (AFP)Obituary, page 23

Hippo violence

Yaounde: A herd of 100 aggressive hippopotami is terrorising fishermen and herdsmen near Lake Fianga in northern Cameroon. Two women drowned after the hippos capsized their dugout. A cow grazing by the lake was also killed. *(Reuter)*



Lee: led a campaign against corruption

Leader in Seoul resigns over Gatt

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE completion of the Gatt accord claimed its first political victim yesterday as Hwang In Sung, Prime Minister of South Korea, resigned, saying that he was taking the blame for not stopping the gradual opening of the country's rice market.

President Kim Young Sam appointed his top anti-corruption official, Lee Hoi Chang, 58, as Prime Minister as a prelude to a wider cabinet reshuffle intended to calm public anger at South Korea agreeing to allow foreign competition in its rice market. On Wednesday, students attempted to storm the American embassy, but were beaten back by police.

The National Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed the appointment of Mr Lee, an independent-minded former supreme court justice. He had led a drive to rid South Korea of rampant corruption and influence-peddling since being appointed head of the Board of Audit and Inspection when Mr Kim took office in February.

In India, the Opposition demanded the resignation of P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, as they paralysed parliament with protests at the government's endorsement of the accord. They called the treaty a "black day" for Indian farmers who could be hit hard by reduced agricultural subsidies.

Elsewhere, however, most governments welcomed the treaty. In Japan, Morihiro Hosokawa, the Prime Minister, described the accord as a "comprehensive and historic undertaking without precedent", and pledged that Japan would continue to deregulate its economy further.

China, which is seeking readmission to Gatt, saw the agreement as playing a balancing role in world trade. In Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamed, Prime Minister, welcomed the accord, saying that "it would lead to orderly trade in the world", while in Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, Deputy Prime Minister, said "small countries like Singapore were under no delusion that they can shut out the world".

هكذا من الأصل

Kremlin looks for scapegoats amid moves to prosecute Zhirinovsky for stirring ethnic strife

Yeltsin hints at legal move to muzzle neo-Fascist

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

A SENIOR security official said yesterday that the authorities should consider legal action against Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the neo-Fascist leader whose Liberal Democratic Party captured, at the latest count, nearly a quarter of the votes in the parliamentary elections.

In the first formal call for action to stem Mr Zhirinovsky's outpourings on ethnic and national matters, Sergei Stepashin, the First Deputy Security Minister, said: "The prosecutor's office and Security Ministry cannot ignore appeals by the Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party which instigate ethnic strife and advocate national exclusivity." This lends weight to rumours that President Yeltsin is planning to use the Security Ministry to constrain the Liberal Democrats' activities and may even be considering banning the party as unconstitutional.

In the first spate of personnel changes following the pro-reform democrats' poor showing, Mr Yeltsin has sacked Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of Ostankino Commonwealth television. The sacrifice of Mr Bragin, a supporter of Mr Yeltsin, indicates that the Yeltsin camp is looking for scapegoats for its own failure to convince voters. An unscheduled documentary about Mr Zhirinovsky, broadcast on the eve of the election and showing him as a tyrant intent on world domination, was so crude that it strengthened sympathy for Mr Zhirinovsky as a hounded outsider, the station's board of directors told the Kremlin. Sergei Stankevich, one of the President's advisers, and Aleksandr Kotenkov, a legal aide, have also been dismissed.

Yesterday a presidential spokesman confirmed that more significant changes in the government were to be expected but emphasised that there would be no change in the path of reform. In a meeting with Mr Yeltsin, Mr Zhirinovsky is said to have offered to co-operate in the new parliament in return for the sacking of several ministers. Aleksandr Kozyrev, the pro-Western Foreign Minister, is thought vulnerable.

Mr Zhirinovsky has said that Russia should provoke wars on its borders in order to expand Russian territory and that the Russians should start "thinking about colonies". In an interview with *Kuranty* newspaper on the eve of the election but only published yesterday, he said: "It is difficult to establish borders today. We need to provoke wars between native tribes. To do this we don't even need to wage war actively, we simply need to avoid interfering. They will slaughter each other — Armenians against Azerbaijanis, Turks against Armenians, mountain people against Turks, Afghans against Tajiks, Tajiks against Uzbeks, and so on." He added: "They — or rather those still alive — will come rushing to ask Russia to accept them as districts or provinces."

The Liberal Democrat leader's fondness for foreign engagement first became clear when he sent volunteers to help President Saddam Hussein of Iraq early this year.

Yesterday he blamed the death of his elderly aunt in Alma Ata on his political foes. His aide, Valentin Minakov, said that Mr Zhirinovsky's relative "had been unable to stand the flow of lies and abuse against her nephew".

The reformers are encouraged by a better showing in individual constituencies, where results are still coming in, than in the party lists. Kremlin officials now believe that Mr Zhirinovsky will control about 78 seats in the Duma and Russia's Choice, the main reform bloc, 98.

Richard Perle, page 20



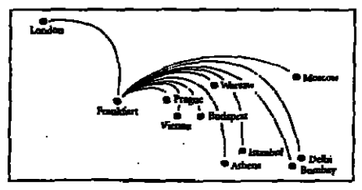
Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian neo-Fascist leader, who supported President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, bidding farewell at Moscow airport this year to young volunteers before they left for Baghdad to aid the regime

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Russia's war drums set off alarm in Kiev

■ The success of the far right in Russia has revived old fears in Ukraine. It has also provided a further argument for Kiev to keep hold of its nuclear arsenal

FROM MISHA GLENNY IN KIEV

Ukraine's prevailing mood of indifference and resignation has been spiced with a real sense of alarm since the scale of Vladimir Zhirinovsky's success in the Russian elections became clear. President Kravchuk's public utterances are famed for their caution and lack of substance, so his warning this week that Mr Zhirinovsky's rise could threaten "the beginning of a big cataclysm, not just for Europe but the whole world" had Ukrainians on the edge of their seats.

Any prospect of conflict between Russia and an independent Ukraine has all Central European countries worried. Mr Zhirinovsky is still in no position to realise his goals of re-establishing Russian imperial control over the "near abroad", as the former Soviet republics surrounding Russia are known.

Ukraine has been hanging on to its Soviet nuclear arsenal of more than 1,000 warheads, and its intransigence — as America and Russia see it — threatens to derail the Start I treaty and could even throw into question the whole process of nuclear disarmament. With Mr Zhirinovsky's victory, however, Ukrainian politicians claim their policy has been vindicated.

Yuri Zbitnev, the moderate leader of the Social Democrats, suggested that the Russian elections demonstrated that "the Ukrainian policy on nuclear weapons has not been entirely incorrect". Dmytro Pavlychko, the head of the Ukrainian parliament's commission on foreign affairs, proved that Kiev is not without its bellicose rhetoric when he said recently that "if the Russians invade the country, we will fight them with guns and with nukes if necessary".

Underpinning the complex issue of Ukraine's nuclear potential is the simmering dispute between Moscow and Kiev over the status of the Black Sea fleet and its base in Sevastopol. Tensions are further increased by the chronic economic performance of Ukraine since independence and the presence of a large Russian minority in eastern Ukraine.

The general panic caused by hyper-inflation, now heading towards an annual rate of 3,000 per cent, has been heightened by an energy crisis which has begun to hit both industrial and private consumers this winter. The energy shortages are the result of the quiet economic warfare which has developed over the past two years between Russia and Ukraine.

"After independence the Russians immediately raised the prices of oil," said Anton Sobolev, the Deputy Finance Minister and one of the government's few supporters of market reform. "Factories are enormously inefficient because they receive ridiculous subsidies for this energy from the state in order to keep the managers sweet."



Kravchuk: warning of a global cataclysm

The bulk of Ukrainian economic muscle is centred on the mineral, metallurgical and high-technology weapons' industries of eastern Ukraine. This is also where the Russian minority is concentrated; almost a quarter of the population in the region. It is here that Mr Zhirinovsky may find fertile ground for rabble-rousing if Ukraine's economy continues its downward spiral.

If relations between Russia and Ukraine were to deteriorate, then the Russian radicals on the Crimean peninsula could provide the detonator to the explosion. The Russians here have never reconciled themselves to Nikita Khrushchev's generous decision to hand Crimea over to Ukraine in the 1950s.

Similarly, Ukraine is unlikely to relinquish this strategic territory, which is also of economic significance because of the tourist industry.

In the rather drab capital, Simferopol, members of the Russian Democratic Party talk in tones deeply reminiscent of the rhetoric of the Krajina Serbs in Croatia, although their case is much weaker. They are powerless to act in Crimea by themselves, but could be easily exploited by unscrupulous forces in Moscow in times of instability.

Ukraine has every reason to fear Mr Zhirinovsky, but if President Kravchuk and his allies continue to block reforms with such zeal Ukraine will have to shoulder substantial blame in the event of trouble.

Scarlett's Oscar brings $510,000 in battle of the bidders

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

GOING, Going, Gone With the Wind — for more than half a million dollars.

The Oscar won by Vivien Leigh, the British actress, for her role as Scarlett O'Hara in the classic 1939 film has been auctioned at Sotheby's in New York for $510,000 (£344,000), amid scenes scarcely less dramatic than those in the original film.

The bidding started at just $40,000, but climbed rapidly thanks to Bob McDonald, a retired Chicago banker, who entered a bidding war with an anonymous telephone buyer. The eccentric millionaire shouted, giggled and waved throughout.

At $300,000, Mr McDonald leaped to his feet and shouted: "This is insanity!" At $400,000, he performed a peculiar shuffling dance. At $500,000, he "chickened out", in his own words, and allowed the statuette to be sold to the anonymous bidder, as hundreds of goggling spectators burst into spontaneous applause and Mr McDonald took a bow.

"I hope they really enjoy it," said Mr McDonald, who became almost incoherent when trying to explain why he had been prepared to pay so much. "The film, the story — it's the story of our lives. It's joy, it's sadness," he spluttered.



Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in a moment of drama from *Gone with the Wind*

Then Mr McDonald, still wearing a tie depicting Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler, returned to Chicago.

Leigh died in 1967, and the Oscar and other items were offered for sale by Suzanne Farrington, her daughter, who lives in England.

"I thought it might make $100,000," said Alan Cowie, the London agent who represented the family. The money will be divided among Leigh's three grandsons.

Val Kilmer, an actor whose British wife, Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, will play Scarlett in the forthcoming sequel to *Gone With the Wind*, bought a photograph of Leigh for $2,250, along with seven pairs of kid gloves, three scarves and a mink collar which once belonged to the actress.

The highest previous amount paid for an Academy Award was $110,000 for John Lennon's Oscar for the best score in *Let It Be*. Joan Crawford's Oscar for best actress in *Mildred Pierce* was sold at Christie's for $68,500.

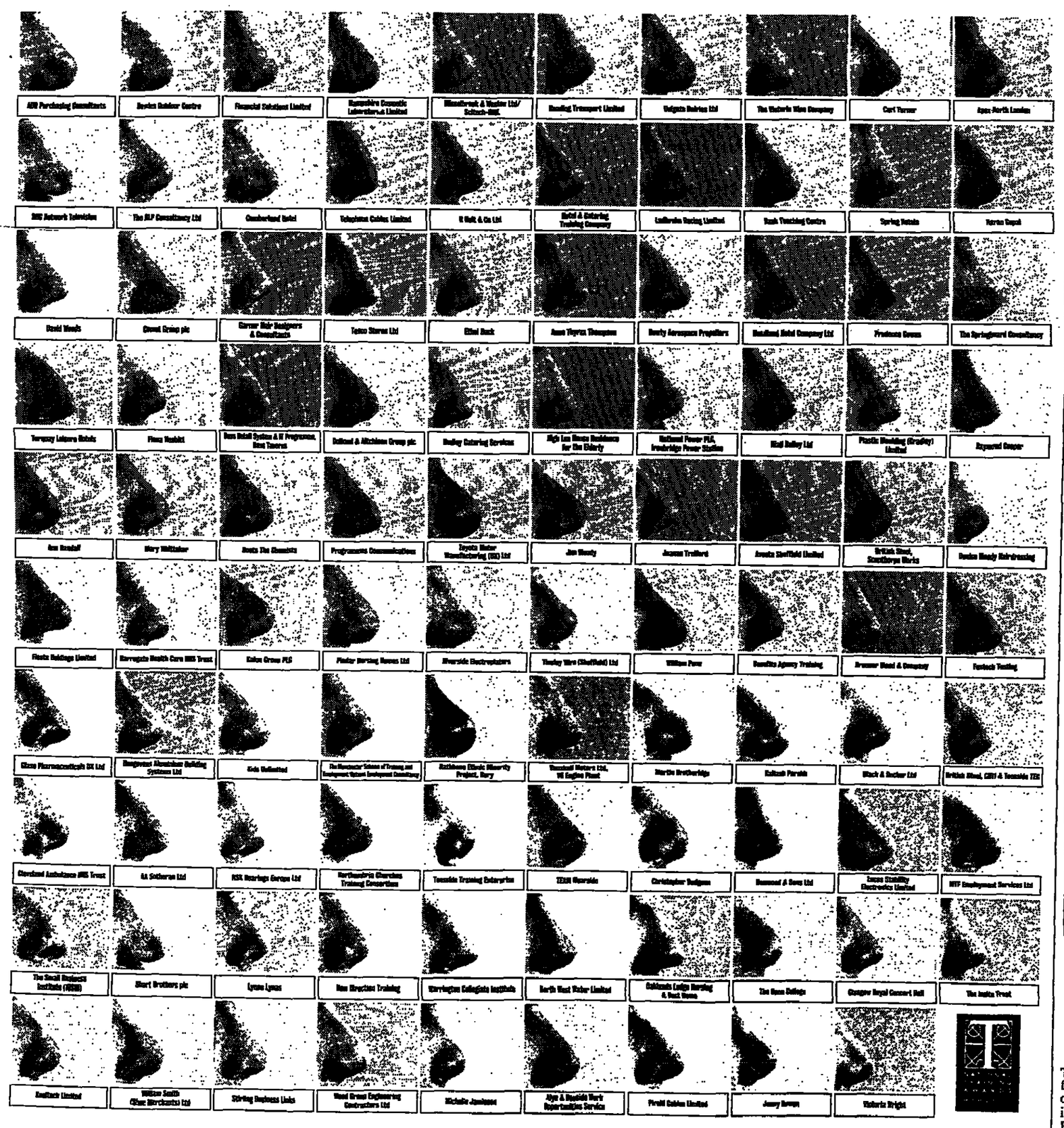
The only movie icon which might rival the Leigh Oscar is the one awarded to Judy Garland for her role in *The Wizard of Oz*. By an odd coincidence, the Garland Oscar, awarded in 1939 for Best Juvenile Actress, goes on sale at Christie's in New York tomorrow. The price it will fetch has been conservatively estimated at $70,000-$90,000.

The long-distance buyer of Leigh's 53-year-old Oscar has not been named, but the statuette is reportedly destined for a private collection.

Mr McDonald, who had planned to bequeath the statuette to the city of Atlanta, was generous in defeat, missing the opportunity to deliver a line that the occasion demanded: "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."



A director of Sotheby's displays Leigh's Oscar, sold for a record sum in New York



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Kohl braced for European rift on Macedonia

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, the German Chancellor, yesterday set out his priorities for the European Union presidency next year, but made clear that a dispute with Greece over the recognition of Macedonia could overshadow the smooth running of the Union.

The European troika of the outgoing, current and future presidents of the Union has become severely burdened by the argument between Greece and Germany over the diplomatic status of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. From January 1 the troika will be made up of Belgium, Greece and Germany, with Athens in the chair. Its strong views about Macedonia and the need to relax Western sanctions against Serbia are likely to create serious friction.

Herr Kohl emphasised yesterday that Bonn was not the front-runner in recognising Macedonia and that there was broad consensus on the issue within the European Union. But Britain, France and Germany seem determined to push the matter through before Greece takes over the presidency in the new year. "We have come to the conclusion that the moderate Macedonian government needs foreign support," Herr Kohl said.

Germany yesterday sent an ambassador to Skopje, following in the steps of Britain, The Netherlands and France. Italy and Spain are also expected to act before Christmas.

The Balkans, Cyprus, the Kurds and Turkish attempts to join the Union are likely to be issues of conflict raised in the next six months. However, it is Greece's aggressive tone, rather than substantial issues, that is upsetting the main European states.

Theodoros Pangalos, the Greek European Affairs Minister, has described the Turks as "muggers" who were "dragging their bloody boots across the carpets of Europe"; Germany, he said, was a "bestial giant with the brain of a child"; while the British press had an "almost racist tendency" to insult the intelligence of the Greek nation.

Mr Pangalos has apologised to Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister. Herr Kohl yesterday shrugged off the Greek insults, saying: "We have to put up with this kind of thing." He made it plain that he was not expecting a smooth ride with the Greeks.

The Chancellor's aides fear that the Union will be in for a period of drift and diversion under the Greek presidency. When the Germans take over in the summer they intend to focus on the agenda worked out at the last European summit. "We must encourage joint steps to improve the competitiveness of Europe, as well as growth and employment within the Union," Herr Kohl said.

Special report, pages 40-42



UK links with new state anger Greeks

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

TWO tiny foreign missions found themselves at the heart of one of the bitterest disputes in Europe yesterday, when Britain established diplomatic ties with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The move is in defiance of Greece, which opposes the republic's name and the symbol on its flag. Tony Millson, who is to be Britain's ambassador to the republic's capital, Skopje, has been manning the Government's office there almost single-handedly since it opened in June.

Skopje's ambassador to Britain is expected to be Risto Nikovski, who has been looking after his country's affairs in London from an office on the premises of a Macedonian steel company in Holborn. "I am the best diplomat my country has here, because I am the only one," he said yesterday. Mr Nikovski is now looking for a more prestigious address for the new embassy in the West End. The two missions will not formally become embassies until protocol formalities are completed in about a week.

Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and The Netherlands also opened diplomatic links with the former Yugoslav republic. Greek ambassadors will be protesting to the European governments about the move.

Greece, which assumes the presidency of the European Union on January 1, says the republic's temporary name, by which it was admitted to the United Nations in April, implies claims on the northern Greek province of Macedonia. However, President Gligorov said in Skopje yesterday: "The Republic of Macedonia has no territorial pretensions towards any of its neighbours."

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ND NICHOLAS WOOD

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George Marshall, last career officer to be Defence Secretary

Algerian attackers spared Muslims

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

DETAILS of the murders of 12 Yugoslavs in Algeria were released yesterday, as the Armed Islamic Group claimed responsibility for the killings.

The 22 Croatian and Bosnian engineering workers were attacked in their camp southwest of Algiers, with a dozen killed by having their throats cut. Two others were similarly wounded and eight spared because they swore they were Muslims. All the dead or wounded were Christians.

As a result of the attack, the Croatian government announced that it was recalling all of its citizens.

☐ **Cairo:** Egypt hanged three Muslim militants in Alexandria for plotting to kill top officials, bombing government installations and trying to set up an Islamic state. *(Reuter)*

Leading article, page 21

Israel orders troops to use force against its vigilante settlers

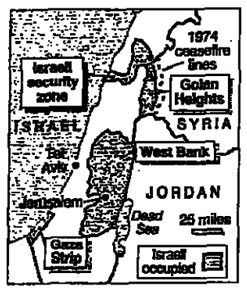
FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI forces have received orders to crack down on Jewish settlers in the occupied territories if they continue to resort to vigilante action against Palestinians.

In one of the toughest measures taken to curb the activities of militant settlers, Israeli officers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been issued with a ten-page pamphlet instructing them to use force if necessary against fellow Israelis to keep the peace.

The army would not divulge details of the orders, but they include practices widely used against Palestinian demonstrators, including summary arrests, physical force and curfews. The orders were given after increasing criticism from cabinet ministers on the apparent failure of the army to prevent settler violence, in part used to undermine public support for the peace process.

Since the signing of the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Jewish militants have gone on the rampage regularly throughout the occupied territories following attacks against settlers by Palestinian militant Islamic groups. In retaliation, five Palestinians have been killed, most of them near Hebron.



The commander of Israeli forces in Hebron gave a warning this week that the town could become embroiled in a bloody vendetta war unless he was allowed greater powers to curb Jewish extremists. "My great fear is that an act of vengeance spawns another and that it drags into a cycle of terror innocent Arabs who might have a personal or family account to settle with Jews," he said.

The army's orders brought angry reaction from Israeli settler leaders and opposition politicians. "You cannot give power to a soldier to do a policeman's job," said David Mena, a Likud Party MP. Israel Medad, of the settler council, accused the government of trying to use teenage conscripts to carry out a job they did not want to do and said the settlers would fight the orders in court. Legal experts said the army, as the sole authority in the occupied territories, had the right to act against all residents.

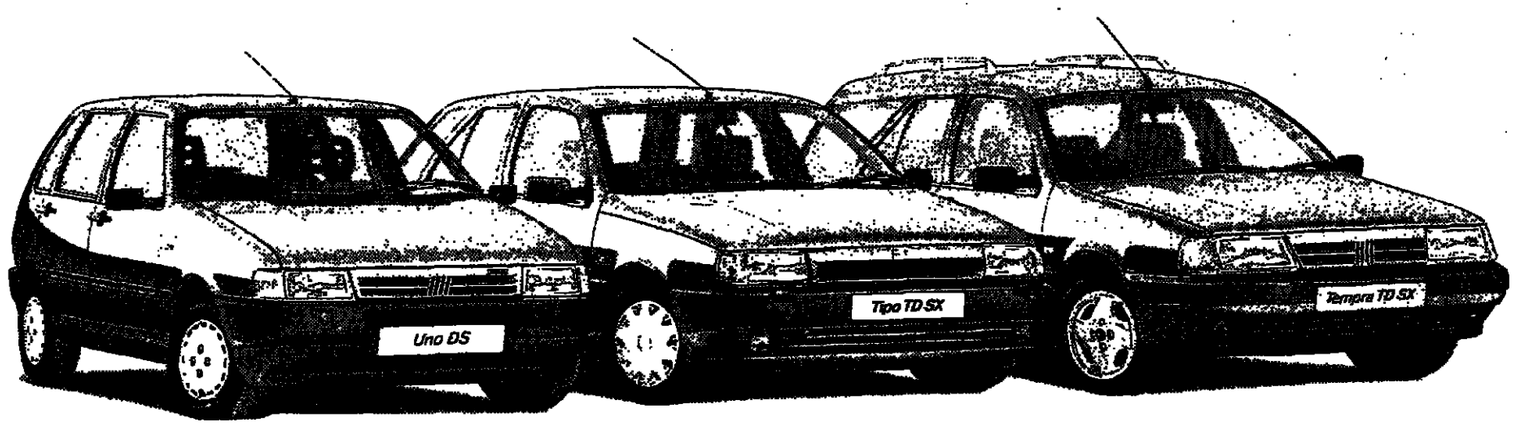
☐ **Paris:** The planned summit between Presidents Clinton and Assad will take place in Geneva on January 16, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, announced. "We need complete peace with everyone and that is why the Syrians are important." *(AFP)*



Junko Kansaku, a housewife, shouting "I don't want to live with my in-laws!" at 107.8 decibels yesterday during a shouting contest in Tokyo. Masahiro Sagawa, a cook, won £61,000 for the loudest yell at 114.7 decibels

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Japanese tears and tirades as the shadow shogun dies

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

TRIBUTES, tears and tirades flowed freely, and in roughly equal measure, yesterday as Japan learnt of the death at the age of 75 of Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister. He was unchallenged as the nation's most influential postwar premier, a man of legendary power, vilified for his involvement in the Lockheed bribery scandal of 1979 and at the same time celebrated for a manipulative genius that kept him at the heart of national policy making until brought down by a stroke in 1985.

Within 30 minutes of the news that Mr Tanaka had died of pneumonia at Keio University Hospital, hundreds of mourners had gathered to pay their respects outside his vast Tokyo mansion. Soon every top Japanese politician had rolled up in a steady stream of black limousines, to acknowledge his role in their own political ascendancy and to give thanks for his wise tutelage.

Morihiro Hosokawa, the Prime Minister, who, like many members of his Cabinet, is a former member of the Tanaka faction and still closely linked to the group, said Mr Tanaka "achieved many outstanding accomplishments ... he was a politician of very rare character". Standing alone in contemporary Japanese politics, Mr Tanaka was a leader who came to symbolise the era in which he held power. "Tanaka politics", a term referring as much to style as to content, is as clear to Japanese people as Thatcherism is to the British. All sectors of Japanese society share a craving for knowledge of Mr Tanaka and eight years since a stroke forced him out of active politics, bookshops are filled with racks of Tanaka books, some critical, some adulatory.



Kakuei Tanaka

Mr Tanaka's status in the political world, towering like Mount Fuji over all rivals, was derived not only from his perfect understanding of the utility of money as the lifeblood of politics. It also came from his instinctive grasp of how Japanese political and social relations work.

Elected into the Democratic Party aged 30, Mr Tanaka was made Deputy Minister of Justice in the second Shigeru Yoshida Cabinet. In 1955 the Liberal Democratic Party was created from the merger of the Liberal Party and the Democratic Party and Mr Tanaka, as Mr Yoshida's protege, made swift sure progress up through party and government ranks. In 1972 he became Japan's youngest postwar Prime Minister, aged 54.

In 1976 charges were brought against Mr Tanaka for accepting a 500 million yen bribe from the Lockheed Corporation designed to convince him of the merits of Tri-Stars over DC10s.

Japanese justice is not known for its speed and it was not until October 1983 that a guilty verdict was handed down and Mr Tanaka was sentenced to four years in jail. He was immediately freed on bail pending appeal, the technical condition in which he had remained ever since. Having been forced out of the premiership, Mr Tanaka then left the LDP but continued to sit in the Diet as an independent.

Although pilloried publicly as a political ogre and attacked by the media, opposition parties and citizens groups, his political influence continued its steady ascent. In 1983, just three months after being sentenced to prison, Mr Tanaka achieved the highest vote of his career and by far the highest in the country. From behind the scenes, and known by his nickname "the shadow shogun", Mr Tanaka came to wield almost unrestricted power over the LDP and national affairs. He contrived to bring down two Prime Ministers — Takeo Miki and Takeo Fukuda — and then effectively appointed the next three — Masayoshi Ohira, Zenko Suzuki and Yasuhiro Nakasone. In the 1986 election, crippled and bedridden, Mr Tanaka topped the poll in his five-seat constituency and won the third highest number of votes in the country.

The highest compliment the Japanese can pay a politician is to call him a *jitsuryoku sha* (man of tangible power). Mr Tanaka was the ultimate *jitsuryoku sha*, the perfect example of what the Japanese expect in their politicians, for he spoke in a language that everyone could understand — the language of money.

Obituary, page 23

هكذا من الأصل

White House starts afresh on foreign policy



Clinton: contemplating way ahead amid rising approval

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton is ending the year on something of a roll. Two polls yesterday gave him 56 and 57 per cent approval ratings, his highest since March. Les Aspin's resignation as Defence Secretary permits him to make a fresh start in his presidency's weakest areas — foreign affairs and relations with the military.

In place of Mr Aspin, a rumpled academic who ruminated aloud, found it hard to make decisions and was alien to military culture, Mr Clinton is bringing in Admiral Bobby Ray Inman, a career serviceman with proven management skills and an impressive record.

Doubts remain about the competence of Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, and Anthony Lake, the National Security Adviser, but Mr Clinton can hardly replace more than one member of his foreign policy troika at a time, and Mr Aspin had become the most visible symbol of his Administration's failings.

Admiral Inman's appointment is unlikely to mean radical departures in American foreign policy. The decision to withdraw troops from Somalia by March 31 has been taken. The Administration no longer talks seriously about military intervention in Bosnia. Mr Aspin has bequeathed workable blueprints for contracting the Pentagon's global presence and for expanding Nato's links to former Warsaw Pact nations.

What Admiral Inman should offer the world is greater consistency and a steadier hand on the tiller, but — as Mr Aspin demonstrated — appointees do not always live up to their advance billings. When Mr Aspin was nominated last December, he was seen as the obvious choice for the job. He had spent his life studying defence, and capped 22 years in Congress with seven as chairman of the house armed services committee. He had eclipsed Sam Nunn, his Senate counterpart and potential rival, with his flawless predictions about the Gulf War's course.

His troubles began on his third day in office when he publicly undercut Mr Clinton's pledge to allow homosexuals in the military by admitting that Congress and the military had the power to "derail this thing". He announced the suspension of humanitarian airdrops over Bosnia — an announcement Mr Clinton immediately reversed. Two weeks after he rejected a military request for additional heavy armour in Somalia, 18 American servicemen were killed by Somali gunmen. In a catastrophic appearance on Capitol Hill to explain administration policy in Somalia, Mr Aspin said he was still "internalising" the problems and asked for ideas. Within days he sent a warship to Haiti which was turned back by a jeering mob. He flew to Brussels to unveil his Partnership for Peace plan for restructuring Nato, and so bungled the presentation that aides had to distribute written corrections. He selected Morton Halperin, a liberal activist, as a deputy, giving conservative congressmen a plum target. Most recently, he fought the White House over the Pentagon budget, causing Mr Clinton one more embarrassment than he could endure.

"I don't think he was a genius at administration," said one four-star general. "The absent-minded professor may work in the house armed services committee, but this is a multi-billion business and you have to have a rigorous approach."

Clinton picks admiral as Defence Secretary

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

■ The man nominated to replace Les Aspin says he never really wanted the job. Both politicians and military men seem delighted with Mr Clinton's choice

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday named Bobby Ray Inman, a retired admiral and former deputy director of the CIA, to replace Les Aspin as Secretary of Defence.

Accepting the nomination, Admiral Inman said he had not wanted the job, and had voted for George Bush not Mr Clinton in 1992, but he was finally persuaded by the president's determination to build a bipartisan consensus on national security. The son of a Texan petrol station owner, Admiral Inman has served four previous presidents.

The speed of Mr Clinton's announcement reinforced the suspicion that Mr Aspin, whose resignation on Wednesday night caught Washington by surprise, had jumped moments before being pushed.

The President was said to have steadily lost confidence in Mr Aspin during his 11 turbulent months in office. He had conducted several conversations with Mr Aspin about his departure during the past two weeks. It had become a question of when and how Mr Aspin would depart, but the Defence Secretary appeared to have made a snap decision in the end.

Earlier on Wednesday Mr Aspin had calmly given a press conference without offering any hint of what was coming. The White House press corps were told in the afternoon that there would be no more announcements that day. In the event Mr Clinton was obliged to make the announcement just as he was about to host a White House Christmas party.

No official explanation has been offered for Mr Aspin's departure beyond "personal reasons", but when a Pentagon aide asked him whether he was going because of criticism over Somalia and Bosnia, budget disputes with the White House or health problems, he replied: "It's everything".

Mr Aspin was said to have agonised particularly over his refusal in late September to grant a military request for additional heavy armour in Somalia. Two weeks later 18 Americans were killed and 75 were injured in a battle with Somali gunmen. He admitted his mistake and congressmen demanded his resignation.

"Aspin was the wrong man for the job," said one administration official. "We knew it, he came to know it, and the whole deal the last couple of months has been trying to figure out the timing of him leaving without making it look like he was forced out."

Mr Aspin is the first member of Mr Clinton's Cabinet to step down, and the first Defence Secretary to resign amid controversy since President Ford sacked James Schlesinger in 1975.

Admiral Inman, 62, will become the first career military officer to hold the job since George Marshall after World War Two. His appointment was greeted enthusiastically yesterday by the military and by Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill.

Mr Aspin is to remain in his job until January 20, so he will see through the Pentagon's budget battle with the White House and next month's summit on Nato's future.



Bobby Inman, President Clinton's choice for Defence Secretary, voted for George Bush in the 1992 election

Man in the news

Keeper of secrets gets Pentagon key

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BOBBY Ray Inman, President Clinton's choice to be the next US Defence Secretary, is a man of secrets who would be the first former career military officer to run the Pentagon since George Marshall after the Second World War.

Admiral Inman was summoned to Washington in secret from his native Texas on Wednesday, in advance of Les Aspin's surprise resignation. At 62, he can be expected to bring an austere and disciplined form of management to the multi-billion-dollar endeavours of the Pentagon, in contrast to Mr Aspin's free-wheeling, back-slapping style of administration. He has the advantage of strong support among Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill, where his skills are widely admired and his nomination must be confirmed.

His service career blossomed as an intelligence officer in the US Navy. He held senior posts under Jimmy Carter, as Director of the National Security Agency that oversees America's spy satellites and signal intercepts, and under Ronald Reagan as Deputy Director of the CIA, under the notoriously hawkish William Casey. He resigned his CIA post in protest, refusing to accept that the Soviet threat justified broad electronic spying on US citizens.

Civilian control of the Pentagon is enshrined in an American law which forbids serving officers from becoming Defence Secretary for ten years after they leave active duty; Admiral Inman retired from the Navy in 1982. In modern times, only General Marshall, architect of the Marshall plan to revitalise the shattered, postwar economies of Western Europe, has gone from the senior uniformed ranks as Chief of Staff of the Army to both Defence Secretary and Secretary of State.

Over the past few years, Admiral Inman has argued that America should increase the budget for high-technology research and that America still needs spies on the ground who recognise the nuances of language and the culture they live in. He has said: "We will need people who can read the languages ... and not wait for somebody else to translate."



George Marshall, last career officer to be Defence Secretary













Rev Awdry has much to celebrate 50 years after writing his first Thomas the Tank Engine story

The church mouse and his millions



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



After the bishop on hell, and the archdeacon on adultery came the tale of the country rector and mammon. The revelation that *Thomas the Tank Engine* had made the Rev W. Awdry £7 million in the last ten years brought the television cameras to Stroud, Gloucestershire "like bees to a honeypot", said Mr Awdry.

Far from being ex-directory, Mr Awdry has never concealed his existence at a modest redbrick house named Sodor, after the island in his tales. Here — silver-haired, courteous, a house-bound widower of 82 — he lives like a church mouse. He sits in the corner of a smoke-filled parlour awash with papers and files. "They seem to think I am a tuppenny millionaire," he says, lighting a Silk Cut (his one expense is 10 cigarettes a day for the last 60 years). "It is the money that excites them. But I started in 1945, after all, nearly 50 years ago..."

To meet Wilbert Vere Awdry (*not* the Rev Awdry, please — everyone gets it wrong these days, he says: do they call Edward Heath "Sir Heath"?) is to be plunged into a family of quiet and peculiarly English distinction who sound like characters from Trollope, far removed from the world of lucrative television spinoffs, videos, yoghurt and duvets.

He has traced the Awdrys back (it is his hobby) to Elizabeth I, since when they have produced generations of rural rectors, country squires and Oxford fellows; family albums show Great Uncle Jeremiahs, upright men of firm jaw, and Aunt Louisas, seemly women of submissive mien; parsons' and bishops' daughters who married curates and schoolmasters; sisters and nieces who gave up their lives to housekeep for men when wives were carried off by fever or childbirth... Mr Awdry's grandfather was born in 1796, his father in 1854; still he smiles benignly on 1994...

I admitted I had never come across Thomas ("a deprived childhood," he said) until a Kaye & Ward man told me in 1975 that the firm's entire fortunes were founded on the Tank Engine. Then I had a son, and discovered the obligatory engines with faces on their smoke-boxes and their (to me) tedious bickering — "Gordon was so rude to poor Henry that Henry got quite ill...". The stories, mercifully as short as Beatrix Potter's, 10 minutes to read aloud, had not Potter's period charm or Sendak's mystique. But for the infant boy they were addictive.

In 1945 Mr Awdry had sold the copyright on *The Three Railway Engines*, for £40. For *Thomas* he got £70, again outright, no royalties. "Then Edmund Ward must have had an attack of conscience, they were selling so well. He offered me an ex gratia royalty of one penny per copy. They sold at four shillings, so that wasn't bad. Then when prices began to rise, I still got one penny... after a bit I protested. They wrote back with hard-luck stories, price of paper, skilled work of blockmaking etc. I said, 'Isn't my work skilled?', and got it gradually upped to 5 or 10 per cent.

"At that time, 1964-5, my royalties were £1,000 a year, which Margaret and I decided was, compared with my clerical stipend of £400 a year, riches. So we went into private practice."

But it was with the 1984 animated version for television and its resultant videos, maps, pyjamas, stationery, bed-linen and even pasta, that money began to spin. There had been radio readings before — John Gielgud did some in the 1950s — but the producer Britt Allcroft was inspired to bring in Ringo Starr. Ringo went to visit Mr Awdry; a *Daily Mail* reporter described Ringo's wife Barbara Bach as "catatonic with boredom" during Mr Awdry's racontage.

Well, Ringo's rendering may ensure *Thomas*'s continued success, but I prefer Mr Awdry's own story, a last link with the 19th century, beginning with that name Wilbert (from his uncles William and Herbert). His grandfather, Sir John, had been at Oxford with John Keble; he was Chief Justice of Bombay before the Mutiny and brought home a bishop's daughter who bore him 12 children of whom Mr Awdry's father was the youngest boy.

"Father passionately wanted to be a soldier, but grandfather made him a solicitor, as fathers then did; and when his partner ran off with the funds, father went into the church."

He was a much bereaved man. His first wife died giving birth to their son Hildred; then Hildred died; so did father's second wife; then their daughter Bridget died; then their elder son Carol was killed on the retreat from Mons on August 27, 1914.

"My father had seen the fulfilment of his own ambition when Carol joined the army. He was prepared to accept the risks of war, which had just been declared two weeks before. To have his son killed on August 27 was absolutely shattering. He and Carol had done everything together."

So the vicar and his third wife, Mr Awdry's mother, moved to Box in Wiltshire, "a house we prophetically named Journey's End" — just 200 yards from the tunnel where the GWR climbed a steep gradient and young Wilbert would lie in bed listening to the engines, convinced they could talk. If we pass swiftly over his Oxford days (oarsman, athlete) and meeting his wife in Palestine, we come to 1943 when their son Christopher had measles and (see letter above) he invented the three engines which were to change their lives.

Mr Awdry will eloquently explain the charming personalities of steam engines, and diesels' lack of appeal; as for electric trains, they have the souls of earthworms: "cut them in half and they wouldn't mind". But the pictures were a problem from the start. Mr Awdry cannot draw, but while he agonised over accuracy of detail, the artists were cavalier. "The first artist made terrible boobs. The simplest child knew the difference between the three original engines. Edward was a 4-4-0, and you know what that means — four bogey wheels under the smoke box, four driving wheels; Henry was a 4-4-2; Gordon was a 4-4-6. Although this artist lived in Leicester and could have seen engines of Henry's type any day, he gave Henry the same wheel arrangement as Gordon!

"And so, in *Thomas the Tank Engine*, I tried to phase Henry out. Henry is ill, in the shed. But I had plaintive letters asking after Henry's health... The trouble went on for years, until Henry had to have an accident and be rebuilt in a different shape."

The third artist was C Reginald Dalby. "His pictures were bright and colourful. But life was too short to answer all the letters, pointing out that Knapford station had a hilly background on one page, and a downland background on another. By the time of *Tank Engine Thomas Again* I had to standardise the geography."

He decided on "Sodor" when preaching at harvest festival on the Isle of Man and he met the Bishop of Sodor and Man — a digression here on Viking history, explaining how the Norwegian see of Sodor, 700 years after the Battle of Largs, remains attached to the archdiocese of York — and painstakingly created Thomas's island off Barrow-in-Furness (you can buy maps), now familiar to young viewers.

Sometimes the tele-versions of Thomas have driven him to fury. "In order to get my stories absolutely right I would rewrite a page 20 times. But they cut them to fit two stories in five minutes, so the whole sense would be lost. No author likes to see his work truncated."

But he was pleased to have royalties from such spinoffs. "It has always been more than I needed," he said. "My great expense now is my minders."

'I'd rewrite a page 20 times. TV would cut two stories into five minutes so the whole sense was lost'

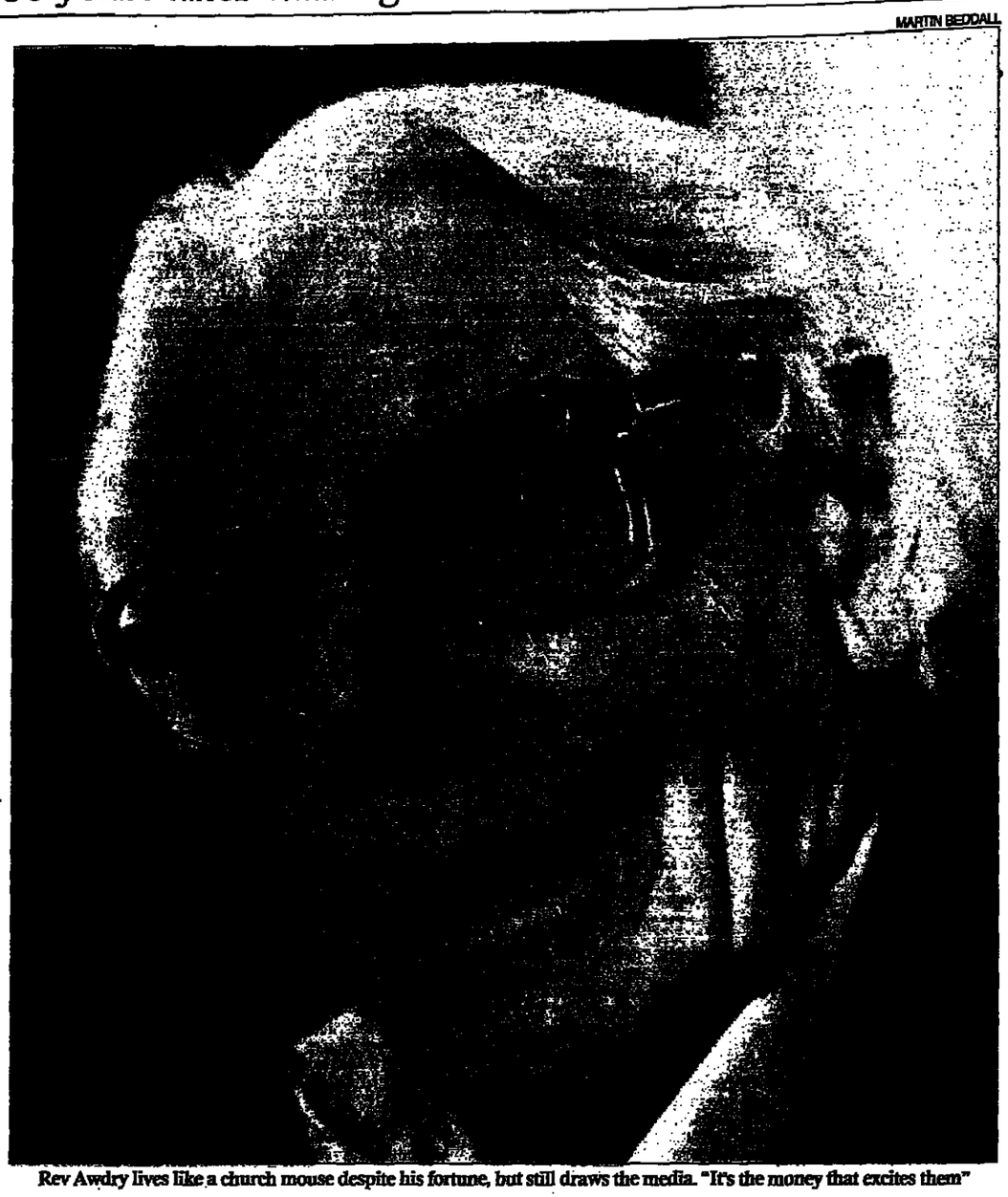
He has to have living-in help — "I am crutch-borne" — and cheerfully describes the amazing machine worked by an electric pump that lowers him into his bath.

Half of his royalties go straight into a trust fund for seven grandchildren. Mr Awdry gets two-sixths; and one-sixth goes to his son Christopher, who, like the son of Babar's creator, took over the stories in 1982.

"I'd run out of plots, and Christopher, who was what I call a bloodsucker (an income-tax official, though he never enjoyed it) told me he'd heard a lot of good railway stories through the Dean Valley railway preservation society, so he had a go."

He watches the Church of England bemusedly. When he was licensed to take services anywhere in the diocese, he would find "one week smells and bells, next week no candles, no turning east at the Creed, extremely evangelical. Clapping and kissing hadn't yet come in, but once, which shook me considerably, I found holy disorder, with guitar voluntaries before the service."

As for the new prayer book, he does not care for getting rid of thee and thou. "And I dislike 'We believe in God the Father...' the Creed is a personal thing, it ought to be 'I believe'. No matter how high or low you were, the old prayer book was a basis, and we were all one church." Women priests, however, will come "in the same way as lady doctors came." His daughter Hilary, a lay reader, may become a deacon. Children have not changed much, he thinks, but he admires their skill with video recorders. "My grandchildren wrote out instructions for me, how to press all the digits, but I can't follow it."



MARTIN BEDDALL

Rev Awdry lives like a church mouse despite his fortune, but still draws the media. "It's the money that excites them"

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£25,000 or more	Monthly	6.25	4.69
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.75	4.31
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Weather girls under a cloud

Whatever the climate at home, television's weather presenters have to be sunny and good-natured

Yesterday Sally Faber was in a "deep depression". She was "under a cloud", with little prospect of "sunny spells ahead". Yet again, a weather girl was in trouble and headline writers across the land were punning fit to burst.

Mrs Faber, we learnt, was being divorced by David, her Tory MP husband, on the ground of adultery. The other man was named as James Hewitt, a friend of the Princess of Wales, thought to be the male voice in the "Squidgygate" tapes.

All that they need is stunning good looks

Once, legend has it, the British were obsessed with the weather. Today, we are fixated on our weather girls. Only a few weeks ago we discovered how Ulrika Jonsson, the former TV-AM presenter had pulled her marriage off the rocks and earlier this month we heard that Tania Bryer, formerly of Sky, had broken off her engagement to Count Gianfranco Cicogna.

According to the Met Office's annual report, 80 per cent of the population watch weather bulletins five or more days a week.

Viewer appreciation of the programmes has surged over the past year, up 5 per cent nationally and 12 per cent in the regions, a feat credited to dramatic changes this year, such as making the map of Britain a slightly lighter shade of green, making the rainfall less "splashy" and giving the clouds a harder edge.

Far more important than fancy graphics, however, are Mrs Faber and her colleagues. These men and women are our friends, helping us to plan our day's activities and cheering us on through rain and shine with soothing chatter and a diverting line in brightly-coloured jackets. Finding out that one of them has been dallying with a man who dallied with the Princess of Wales is as exciting as discovering that our next-door neighbour is passionately involved with a member of the *Gladiators* cast.

John Teather, the BBC's producer of weather programmes, thinks the choice of presenter is crucial. "Most broadcasts are only two minutes long", he says, "and unless presenters make that connection, the audience won't absorb the information."

So what makes the ideal weather presenter?

"It's an undefined talent," says Mr Teather (Teather the Weather to colleagues). "The term for it in the 1930s was the 'It' factor. The presenter is that person who walks into the room and makes everyone's head turn." Ah, so *that's* what it is about Bill Giles.

Mr Teather's presenters are not, however, the type to get their love lives written up in the tabloid papers. Suzanne Charlton and Penny Tranter, the BBC's two female presenters, are pleasant types, more weather women than girls, who look like they buy their knickers at Marks & Spencer, puzzle in the supermarket over the merits of Daz versus Persil and are therefore implicitly trustworthy. When they tell us to take a brolly to our children's sports day, we obey, no questions asked.



Sally Faber: MP husband wants to divorce her

Not only do Ms Charlton and Ms Tranter look like reliable head girls, they also have sound, meteorological credentials. Suzanne may be Bobby Charlton's daughter, but she has a degree in physics and meteorology from Reading University. Penny has a BSc in environmental sciences from the University of East Anglia.

Both are former employees of the Met Office, from where all the BBC weather team is recruited and both compile their own forecasts.

Mr Teather says: "The BBC is there to provide quality information. There is a world of difference between someone who knows what they are talking about and someone reading a script from an autocue, and our viewers respect that."

In the world of commercial television, however, things are completely different. Here nobody is required to tell their isobars from their isotherms, presenters read off a prepared Met Office print-out and the only qualifications required are stunning looks and a bouncy demeanour which ensure that most viewers are far too busy gazing at the presenters to hear a word they are saying, let alone mind if they get it wrong.

"With Ulrika reading the weather", said a male friend, "you'd think every day was going to be sunny."

It is these creatures, with no pretensions other than to dazzle and entertain, who are the true weather girls. What marks them out is their utter lack of commitment to a meteorological career. For them weather girling is as nothing more than a way of getting noticed, a stepping stone onwards and supposedly upwards into the dazzling world of television personalitydom.

Ms Jonsson, 26, is now presenting *Gladiators*, modelling for the Grattans catalogue and starring, rather improbably, in a commercial for Head and Shoulders. She was recently voted the woman most men in the country would like to go to bed with.

Ms Bryer, 31, or "Tracey Sunshine" as she is otherwise known, is the showbiz correspondent for the BBC's *Good Morning* and a fixture at society parties.

It is a route that long-legged, pouting, blonde Mrs Faber seems destined to follow, despite, or perhaps because of, all the publicity she has received this week. Her days as a weather girl may be, technically, at an end — Carlton has just announced it will not renew her contract — but it matters not a jot. Mark my words, in a year's time we will be reading about Sally Faber "former weather girl" and co-presenter of some afternoon quiz programme. Weather girldom, it seems, is not a job, but more a state of mind.

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

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هكذا من الأصل

Opportunists who forced Russia to send in the clown

Vladimir Zhirinovsky is a colourful personality, a self-styled political clown, who offers to the impoverished, humiliated multitudes what they dream about. I doubt any one of those who voted for him last Sunday took him seriously. He is a typical buffoon, attracting a protest vote in the absence of a real political alternative, a Russian version of the Raving Loony Lord Sutch. If we want to understand why he got 26 per cent of the popular vote, we have to look at his opponents.

Nothing is as it seems to be in the twilight zone of the post-Communist world. Indeed, it is only in the West that the new Russian "elite", like Gaidar, Yavlinsky, Popov *et al*, can pass for democrats and followers of Milton Friedman simply because they say they are. True, they love to use an appropriate "market" jargon, particularly in public and especially when talking to the International Monetary Fund. That, however, does not mean they either understand the free market or are truly converted to it.

Just a few years ago, they were equally eager to parrot socialist mumbo-jumbo, and tomorrow they will happily switch to Swahili if it should be convenient. Gaidar, for example, used to be economics editor of *Pravda*, while Popov was a dean of the economics department of Moscow State University, hardly a spawning ground of the free marketeers. This is a new breed of intelligentsia — the end-product of the Communist experiment, opportunists with no convictions or concerns for anything but themselves.

In the former Soviet Union we knew all along that — as a political joke popular in the early Sixties had it — honesty, intelligence and membership in the Communist Party could not possibly be reconciled in the same individual. Communist *nomenklatura* did not suddenly wise up in August 1991, turning to democracy and market economy under the pressure of compelling evidence. Under pressure of the growing political crisis, the party split into two uneven groups: while a minority of clinical idiots went marching on under the red banner, the cynical majority quickly turned into "reformers", "democrats", "nationalists" and "free-marketeers".

One of these "reformers", the former mayor of Moscow, Gavriil Popov, has even created his own "theory", according to which bureaucrats "in the time of transition" should be allowed to take bribes and encouraged to "have a share in private businesses". This, he argues, will make them friends of the market reform rather than its enemies. This is exactly the "third way" they love to talk about, a "third way" which the Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus aptly described recently as a "way leading directly to the Third World".

One can easily imagine popular reaction to these "reforms" which made most of the people 20 times poorer while "privatising" the most lucrative state property into the hands of former *nomenklatura*. Contrary to the Western perception, Gaidar's so-called reforms discouraged any genuine private initiative. With income taxes reaching as much as 90 per cent, entrepreneurs were promptly driven underground, where shady deals were made only in cash (to the utter delight of the racketeers).

Thus was private initiative directed into wasteful activity instead of being harnessed to a productive market economy. Instead, it fuelled inflation, crime and a popular hatred of "ugly capitalism". And, when all these brought the entire Russian economy to the brink of bankruptcy, Gaidar and his "reformers" simply reversed their policies, returning to massive subsidies for the loss-making state-owned enterprises and to indexation of wages and pensions.

Needless to say, this "reform" could not serve Communists better: though the country still had neither democracy nor a market economy, both ideas were discredited. And so were those who have conducted the "reform". How could Yeltsin's leadership hope to get them re-elected? The answer was a simple manipulation, evolving a bizarre electoral system which would present Gaidar as the only proponent of democracy, the only alternative to the return of the dreaded Communists.

Thus, the stage was set for an earth-shaking event in Russia: a majority vote for an outspoken Nazi. Not surprisingly, people in their multitudes have chosen to vote for Zhirinovsky as a gesture of defiance, rather than for the Communists-turned-democrats who have robbed them. I don't blame them, although I have preferred to vote against everyone on the ballot. About 5 per cent of the voters in Russia did the same.

The trouble is that this typical protest vote may have far-reaching consequences. No sooner had the unthinkable happened than the press, the politicians, the military and the intellectuals completely changed their attitude. Suddenly, an unknown clown became a powerful figure, attracting flattery, receiving visitors and propositions for future partnership. The awkward truth about Vladimir Zhirinovsky is that everybody seems to need him. Was it not the same with a little-known and even less-loved corporal 60 years ago?

VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY



BY THE time Vladimir Bukovsky (left) was 35, he had spent more than one-third of his life in Soviet lunatic asylums and prison camps. After his revelations about the misuse of Soviet psychiatry for state oppression had been published in the West, the KGB could find no way of keeping one of the country's greatest dissidents silent without killing him, so it exiled him from the Soviet Union. This spring, he returned to Moscow after 15 years. Bukovsky is the author of *To Build a Castle*, an extraordinary chronicle of endurance. He was no martyr, but he answered the question "Why should I do it?" with "If I don't do it, who else will?"

Crackers that pulled no punches

Victorian Christmas crackers were more risqué than today and full of political puns, writes **Libby Purves**

We think, in our ignorance, that we are the fastest-reacting generation of newsaholics yet. We think that because we have satellites and *Spitting Image* and red-hot references to Gatt agreeements inserted painfully up *The Archers*, we are something new in our relentless topicality. Not so.

Compared to our great-grandfathers we are conservative nostalgics. Where, for example, can you buy this Christmas a box of Maastricht or Gatt crackers? Or a Royal Separation Souvenir pack? You can't even get a Scott Enquiry Set, with rude mottoes about Lady Thatcher and hilarious half-masks of Alan Clark and Presiley Baxendale. Nobody has even produced a box of Channel Tunnel theme crackers: not this time round: the last box was on sale in 1929, and that was a different hole altogether.

Our ancestors put us all to shame. They had Suffragette Crackers by 1911 and marked Christmas 1931 with League of Nations Crackers containing flags of all nations, and a box with novelty miniature headphones and aerials in each, to celebrate the "latest popular craze" of wireless.

They were quick off the mark to bring the news to the festive table: we are, in comparison, timorous slaves to the heritage industry. It has not occurred to anybody to rush out a box of Russian Election crackers with pictures of Mr Zhirinovsky, but in 1884 a popular line was the Russian political cracker containing a puzzle, "Find the Nihilist, on each picture of the Czar".

To honour the snap, giggle and crumple of these vanished generations, I spent a wonderful morning nose-down in the tattered trade catalogues of the Tom Smith Group Ltd of Norwich, Norfolk. Give or take the odd merger and buy-out, it is the same firm set up by the visionary confectioner who invented the cracker, and whose statue still stands in Finsbury Square.

Taking his inspiration from the Parisian bonbon in tissue, Tom Smith added love verses; and one winter, by a crackling fire, hit upon the idea of the gunpowder "Snap". Whereon he replaced the sweet (the original point of the whole mad exercise) with a novelty gift — and had a wholly British invention. His son Walter replaced the love-poems with terrible jokes, and the rest is history.

> The Victorians made a cheerful joke of current events

In a room above the modern high-tech factory, I searched the old trade catalogues for further evidence of the Victorian and Edwardian determination to make a cheerful joke of current events; a trend which seems to have characterised Britons from the 1870s right through until the Second World War knocked the stuffing out of us and drove us back to reindeer and Victoriana.

The earliest are from 1884, in which the conventional Harlequin and Good Fairy lines are leavened by a Caricature pack guying Mr Gladstone, Lord Randolph Churchill and Henry Irving; a Drury Lane box with authentic actors "by special arrangement with Mr Augustus Harris", and a Scientific box, with miniature "microscopes, compasses, magnesium wire coils, magnets and ocular spectra". There is also the Czar v. Nihilist pack and a Telephone theme containing a device "by which a watch may be heard to tick at a distance of over 50ft, providing amusement at any evening-party".

By 1905, the "Press Crackers" were wrapping love notes and wee pencils in squares cut from *The Telegraph*, all about the Boer War (a box survives: the management have unwrapped one, just one, despite ceaseless pleading from modern journalists who want to read the insides). By 1911 the "Suffragette Crackerettes" were offered, with a fierce brolly-waving harridan on the box and a specimen rhyme:

"Tho' man may baulk us
now in our endeavour
To gain the franchise, we
ignore his ban!
We'll go on pleading till we
prove forever
That we are worthy MATES
for any man!".

This may, however, be one of the tamer rhymes: a warning is printed with this box:

"N.B. Intensely amusing for adults but not recommended for juveniles". The 1915 version is called "Votes for Women", and offers "Most interesting Souvenirs of this agitation, amusing to all and offensive to none". Shards of glass, perhaps, or novelty force-feeding tubes.

In 1911 there were also the South Pole Crackers. The company must have popped the miniature polar bears in without any very rigorous zoological research. Penguins would have been better.

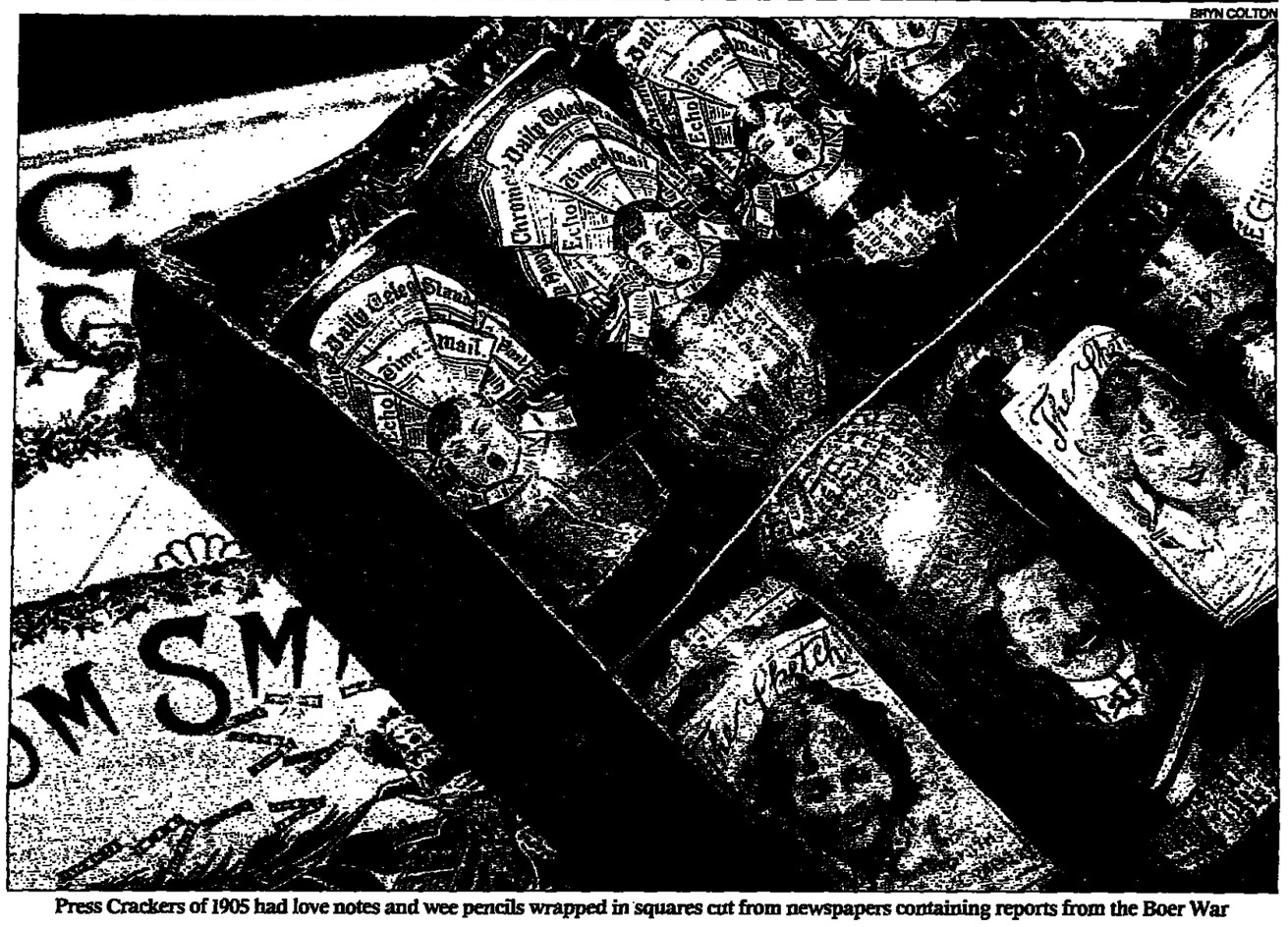
Equal hilarity was roused by the nation's early attempts to prepare for the Great War: note the "TERROR-TORIAL" box, guying the new force. Come the actual war and its aftermath, escapism rules: see Charlie Chaplin's Komical Kinema Crackers (with canes and moustaches and false eyes) and Jazz Crackers containing teeny humaphones and Mandoline whistles. We shall pass over the Piccaninnies' Delight, the Dutch Cap, and the Gay Times: language changes.

But even for their day, these people were robust: the Judge and Jury (48 shillings per dozen boxes, 1922) is advertised as: "Dealing in an interesting and amusing manner with the innovation of ladies on the Jury. The Contents include a Writ for Breach of Promise, Kiss-Curls, Counsel's Wig & Cravat, Powder Puff, Moustache etc". You see what I mean? We could have had a Bill Wyman divorce box.

I could have spent a week there, pondering on how well they sold such lines as London to Paris flight commemoratives, or the boxes improbably commissioned to mark such innovations as the Girls Brigade, Ragtime, Waterplanes, Motor Cycling, Looping the Loop and Women Aviators. I did spend some time with the 1930s catalogues, trying to find out when exactly they dropped the "Our Charming Prince" line. No. 745, "ornamented with real little photos of our Charming Prince of Wales in 4 different attitudes", but could only ascertain that the company was wily enough to remainder them well before the Abdication crisis. Royal warrant-holders since 1907, they never did produce a Wallis Simpson Box.

And never will. Alas, by the 1950s the cheeky company spirit fell victim to nine-month production schedules, mechanisation, and the understandable temptations of such bland sure-sellers as Disney or Thunderbirds. They still know a bandwagon when they see it, and their bestseller is a "green" line, the Wild Flower seed crackers; but Christmas, society has decided, is now strictly a time for sentimental nostalgia. There is something weirdly reassuring in the discovery that our forefathers — confidently sending up science and war, uproar and political upheaval — didn't think so.

BRYN COLTON



Press Crackers of 1905 had love notes and wee pencils wrapped in squares cut from newspapers containing reports from the Boer War

Child stars burn brightly but briefly

Teenaged tennis champion Jennifer Capriati's brush with authority is classic rebellion by a young celebrity

Two very famous Americans found themselves in different degrees of hot water this week: one, the pop star Michael Jackson, returned to America to confront allegations of child sex abuse; the other, teenaged tennis champion, Jennifer Capriati, was accused of shoplifting.

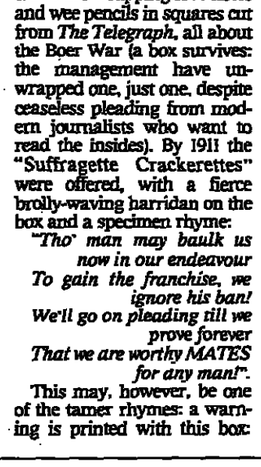
Jackson faces ruination, humiliation and possible imprisonment if the charges are proven. By contrast, Capriati, 17, was not even formally charged with shoplifting the $15 ring and was simply issued with a citation, the equivalent of a speeding ticket. Yet the episodes are similar in that they cast a light into the lonely and often psychologically destructive world of child celebrity.

A more peculiar upbringing than that of Jackson is hard to imagine: from earliest childhood he was lavished with material wealth and public adulation, but apparently deprived of friends and, he claims, physically abused by his father.

In a different sector of the entertainment industry, Capriati's rise to celebrity was similarly meteoric, propelled by demanding parents and a still more demanding public. By the age of four, she was singled out as a potential tennis champion: by 15, she had reached the semi-finals of Wimbledon and the US Open. Ranked ninth in the world, her earnings are estimated to exceed $7 million.

The incident with the ring may have been a simple mistake, as her agent and parents claim. It may equally have been an act of rebellion, hitherto repressed by a childhood spent in expensive hotels and on the tennis court, when she followed a gruelling training schedule at the expense of her adolescence.

Jackson's social inadequacies had been providing fodder for reams of speculative journalism long before he was accused of abusing a 13-year-old boy. The mere fact that he liked to share his bed with small boys, whatever he may or may not have done therein, is evidence of a warped sense of propriety. Stuart Fischoff, a psychology professor at California State University in Los Angeles who specialises in counselling celebrity families, says it was absurd of Jackson to think he could get away with that. But, he adds, "a high degree of fame, celebrity and money has a disastrous influence on most people. They lose their sense of proportion. There's one rule for the rest of the world and one rule for them.



Capriati: meteoric rise

"Combined with the stress of childhood with the amorality, inflated self-esteem and hypocrisy of Hollywood, you have a mass of turmoil, a profoundly distorted view of life."

The result can be a conviction of being not only beyond adult control but invulnerable.

Dr Charles Figley, director of the Florida State University Centre for Psycho-social Stress, says: "It's the 'they-just-don't-get-it' syndrome. They create an illusion of reality but their sense of morality, perspective and sense of themselves is distorted."

The greatest challenge for parents of child stars, whether in sport or Hollywood is "creating a normal childhood which includes disappointments".

Jennifer Capriati would not be the first young tennis player to find herself overwhelmed by the pummeling regime of international tennis. The aborted careers of Tracy Austin and Andrea Jaeger, for example, show the effects of growing up too fast, too soon, within the fiercely competitive confines of professional tennis.

Some have interpreted Capriati's brush with the law in Tampa Bay Centre Mall as a sign that the young player is heading off the rails. Others, however, see her recent behaviour as a therapeutic and overdue act of rebellion, a declaration of independence in a life hitherto ruled by adult demands. "You would be amazed how normal shoplifting is among teenagers," points out Dr Fischoff. During a tournament in Tokyo last year, Capriati rounded on her father, Stefano, and threatened to quit the game altogether.

The primary responsibility for ensuring child stars enjoy a relatively stable childhood lies, of course, with parents, but in both showbusiness and sport it is often the parents who place the greatest stress on their prodigies, imposing a fear of failure and an expectation of success that may be highly destructive.

Dr Figley's research suggests, intriguingly, that second or third generation celebrities are better able to withstand the potential psychological damage wrought by intense public scrutiny, fame and wealth. In these families, where the father, mother or even grandparents have already been through the celebrity mill, "there is a certain amount of socialisation to prepare them", says Dr Figley.

Some survive the stress more or less happily, others dramatically do not, but either way, the pressures imposed on modern child stars are unique, resulting in an emotionally treacherous tightrope where a great talent can also be a mighty burden.

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Philip Howard



■ Whereas the headline can sometimes be more of a teaser

The intro is vital. (Intro is the abbrev for introduction that we in the keyboard-abusing trade scatter casually around to suggest esoteric jargon not available to ordinary people.) There goes the first straight intro I have ever written. I prefer the teasing and leisurely intro that leads readers along the garden path, admiring the agapanthus border, before dropping them in the duckpond. The trouble with that approach is that you may lose a lot of them along the way. As the editor in *The Front Page* asks, with more realism than sensitivity to hack's vanity: "Who the hell ever reads the second paragraph?" And as Lord Northcliffe had pinned up around the *Daily Mail* office, referring to the mental age of his readers: "Remember, they are nine." In such an attention-grabbing form of scribbling as journalism, you had better let readers know what is going on early, or you may be left with no readers.

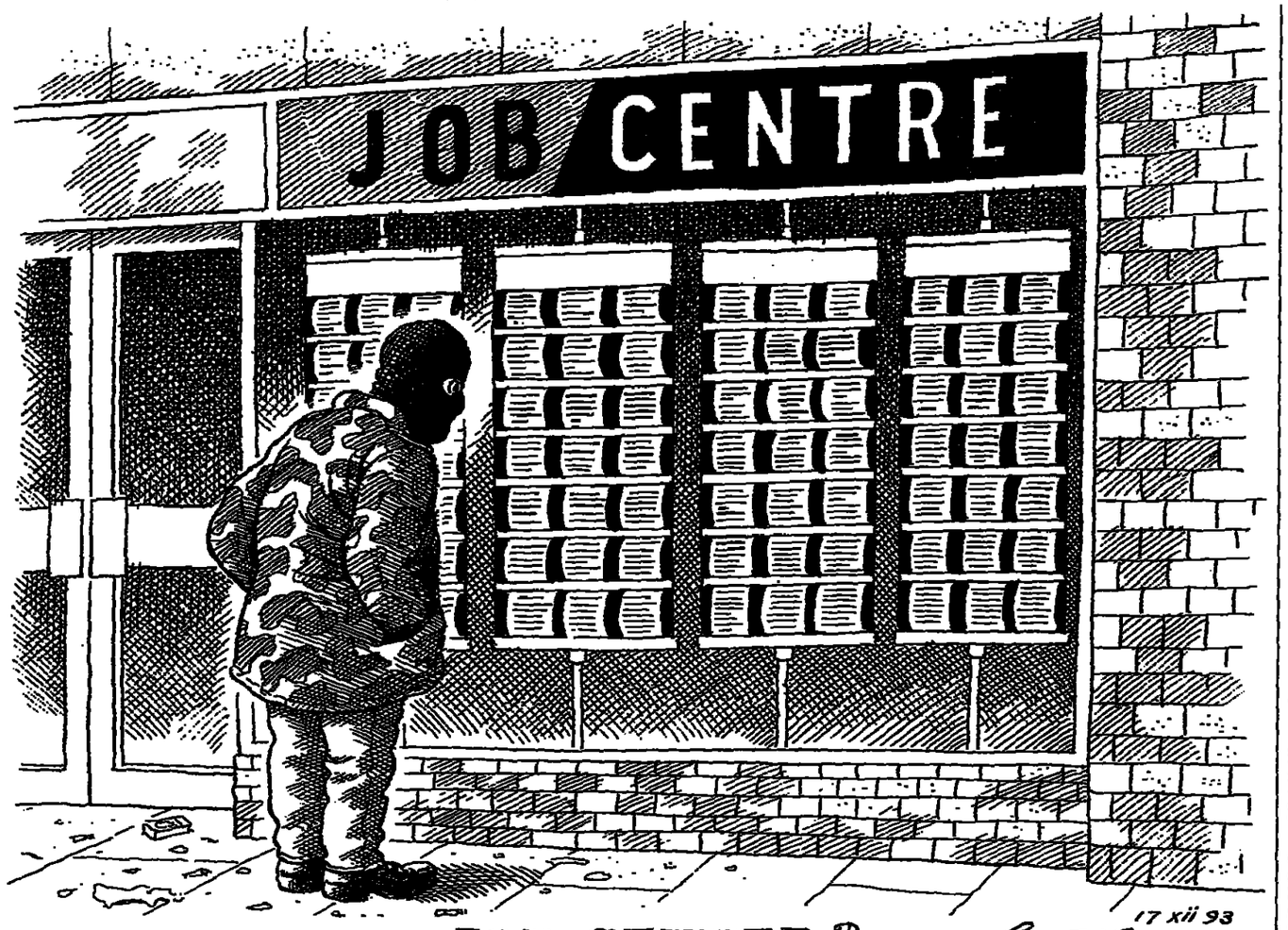
This was not so important when there were fewer voices clamouring for our attention. When you were the only journalist in your tribe, you could afford to start slowly, with an extended invocation to the Muses, ascribing qualities to them that they must have been aware of already, if they were immortal and all-arty, before launching into 20,000 lines of story. There was nowhere else for your audience to go, apart from back to their silent caves. We have had to hurry things up, because there are so many voices competing for attention. If some idiot changes the channel on your digital transistor, it takes half an hour to find Radio 3 again, and while tracking it down, you discover that there are now more disc-jockeys and presenters polluting the airwaves with their crass familiarities than any single one of them can boast as an audience. More has meant worse, and greater choice has produced greater confusion, at least for blur-eyed, digitally disadvantaged shavers at crack of dawn in a lather with buttons.

But, in any case, the best stories usually hook you with their intros. "'Damn,' said the duchess" was taking the barbed intro to extremes for its period. But at all levels, good writing often starts as it means to go on, rather than clearing its throat before getting down to business. More because of the film than the book, "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again" is a haunting incantation of an opening. But dull would be be of soul who did not wait to see what happened next after the curtain had gone up on thunder, lightning and witches, or on a castle platform so spooky that arrivals challenge the guard in terror.

"Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote . . ." and "*Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita . . .*" are both gripping intros, though this may be because the rest of the words live up to the standard set by the openings. *In re* Dante and the Bishop of Durham, it is significant that Hell is so much better to read than Purgatory and Heaven, and that nobody could want to go to Heaven while Paolo and Francesca, Brunetto, and some of the others, including Virgil, remain down below. In the same way, *Paradise Lost* is much better than *Paradise Regained*, and its dark hero is Lucifer.

Frazer's intro to *The Golden Bough*, with the sinister priest who slew the slayer and must himself be slain waiting fearfully for his murderer to creep up behind him, grabs the reader by the throat, only to relax the hold with anthropological curiosities from the South Seas. Here is the intro to one of this year's best novels, by a cunning pro of suspense across time: "I inherited the house from my father. That was how it all began. I had heard nothing about it until after his death . . ." No harrumphing there. Most consistent of openers is Sterne: only two books, but two unforgettable intros.

There are only half a dozen stories, and they go on repeating themselves as freshly as if they had never been written before. The trick is to give them a good peg of an intro. For daily journalism, the basic ingredients are religion, aristocracy, sex, violence and mystery. Somerset Maugham — like Ian Fleming a maestro of the Velcro intro — gave a stereotype: "'Christ!' said the duchess, 'I'm pregnant. Whodunit?'" Nothing so difficult as the intro, except perhaps the end.



Addicted to welfare

We may laugh at ludicrous court cases in America, but the compensation culture began in Britain and is costing us dear

Bernard Levin

I knew it, I knew it, I *knew* it! But not only did I know it, I *said* it, too, and I can recall the very words in which I said it, while the rest of you jeered and scoffed and said "It's only Bernard, going on again". You challenge me to recall the words, do you? Well, here goes, and word perfect: what I said was "mark my words". Yes, "mark my words", I said, and I said it again, emphatically, to make sure that it would register: "*mark* my words", I said, raising my voice, "*mark my words*".

Now what do you say? Egg on your faces, what? Only old Bernard, was it, going on again, eh? Well, mark old Bernard's words, while you're about it. What I said was that sooner or later someone in the United States will sue the makers of Coca-Cola, not because grandmother, having taken a single sip, keeled over and never rose again, but because it was alleged that Coca-Cola was addictive and the drinker of it had become hooked, so please can we have seven hundred and ninety thousand million dollars as compensation. Well, it has happened: not with Coca-Cola, but with Maxwell House coffee: two men are suing the makers of the firm who brew it, because they drank so much of it that they became helpless Maxwell House junkies.

Picture the scene: Addict A insists that he was a perfectly healthy man with not a care in the world, and now he cannot get to sleep; Addict B adds that he is now subject to countless headaches. And so powerful is the treacherous ichor that they now cannot kick the habit. (There is another element in the story: the two men are in prison. Well, I am sure that there are enough lawyers in the United States to argue in court that the crimes for which they were imprisoned were committed under the influence of Maxwell House.)

I have no connection with Maxwell House; I use only Jamaica Blue Mountain for my breakfast tipple, heedless of the appalling price, and as for any deleterious after-effects, I have always gone on the principle that if coffee isn't strong enough to give you heart palpitations, it is no good. I come here, then, as a neutral in the forthcoming lawsuit, but with some reflections on the human race.

From time to time in this space, I have brought up to date the catalogue of legal lunacies available in the United States, each of the said lunacies ending in enormous sums being paid out to some of the biggest crooks in the land. The *locus classicus* was the case of the burglar who, with admitted criminal intent, climbed on to the roof of a prosperous-looking house. He fell through the fanlight, and was injured. He sued the owner of the house, won, and was awarded $350,000 against the householder.

I said that I have added, as time goes by, to these exercises in *chutzpah*; one of these will be familiar to you, for you will have learnt about it not only from me but from others, since it was so astonishing that even the American press began to think something rather amiss. But you will not guess the sequel, which has only recently come to light.

There was a man, in New York, who had decided to commit suicide, for reasons known only to him. To this end, he went down to one of the subways, stood on the edge of the platform and, when the train came in, threw himself in front of it. The driver, however, was exceptionally alert; he could not stop in time to stop short of the would-be suicide, but he managed to avoid killing him. The man then sued the subway company — not for frustrating his wish to die, but for the injuries he sustained. As I recall, he got something like $750,000.

That was the original story. The sequel was that five years after the event, he did it again.

From this side of the Atlantic, we laugh or become enraged, depending on our feelings. Whichever it is, we murmur a prayer of thanksgiving that such shenanigans do not happen here. Those feeble Americans can do such things, but we British, a sturdy race who are capable of standing on our own feet, need no such cosseting.

Well, not quite. The welfare state, in the form we know it, originated in Britain, its creator being Sir William Beveridge. This became the model for practically all of Western Europe, and many countries elsewhere. Sometimes, I wonder whether if Beveridge had never been born, the world would be very strikingly different. There is a clue, and a very interesting one. At the end of the Second World War, particularly in ravaged Europe, it was argued that the welfare state was not just a way to help the peoples live better, but a bulwark against chaos and revolution. There was one place, though, where the conditions could be studied like a culture under a slide: in Hong Kong. The colony had no welfare state, had indeed no welfare of any kind, nor any recognisable material support. The people of Hong Kong had, in effect, a choice between rotting away in something like starvation, and fending for themselves. They chose the second option, and they set to with nothing but their hands. The result was the first economic miracle. (It is argued that Germany did something similar, but it was not long before the defeated nation was getting help from its erstwhile enemies.)

Suppose Britain had had no welfare state; go further, suppose we had had none of the help that came from the United States at the end of the war in the form of the Marshall Plan. Would we have literally starved to death, while gangs of bandits ruled? Or would we have done what Hong Kong did? I ask these questions because I am being haunted not only by the might-have-been, but also by a single, crisp sentence spoken a few weeks ago by one of those hard-headed American economists: he was addressing Britain, and he said "If you pay a man when he is unemployed and tax him when he has got a job, it is not surprising that there is unemployment". (There is a shorter sentence, home-made in the Department of Employment: it goes "Whenever benefits rise, unemployment rises too". Think about it.)

Now we are hearing from our masters that we shall have to dispense with much of the structure of the welfare state; our masters do not add that it is because of the countless billions they have wasted that the urgent action is required. Nor, for that matter, will the welfare state be dismantled (tinkered with, but not dismantled), because there is no minister — I do not believe that there is even a single MP — with the courage to say that the entire idea of the welfare state was not only a chimera, but in essence the ruin of the country. (The Adam Smith Institute — if all its books and pamphlets were laid end to end they would stretch from the obvious solutions to the necessary action — has done magnificent service to sense and honesty, which of course is why no government — not even Thatcher's — has even taken it seriously.)

What we want is a grand gesture — something that will really convince people that there is a problem. It is no use just closing Bart's: all that happens then is a flurry of indignation for a few days, and a lot of newspaper pictures showing pretty nurses holding placards. (And *still* no one has pushed Bottomley over a cliff.) No, it will have to be something really tremendous, and the answer is to hand: close down the National Health Service. *Now.*

Consider: not only would it save billions upon billions, not only would it remove from the public payroll thousands of employees who should never have been hired in the first place, not only would it really wake the country up to the truth of our position, but it would do something much more important than all of those things: it would, at a single stroke, improve a thousandfold the health of the nation.

I have perhaps strayed somewhat from the two felons who are suing Maxwell House coffee because they have become addicted to it. Ribald suggestions such as "Try tea" will do nothing to improve the situation — the situation which may yet see the two complaining criminals get not only their day in court, but a day in court ending with Maxwell House being non-suited and the two villains picking up the pieces. Golden pieces. Did I forget to tell you how much they are claiming against the coffee-makers? It is $40,000. So far, I have not been able to find out whether they want that much between them, or are demanding forty grand each. Mark my words.

Disarming Russia's Right

Demilitarise and prosper, advises

Richard Perle

There is so much counterfeit money in circulation in Russia that hotel cashiers will not accept anything larger than a $20 bill. So a recent visitor was surprised to see a thick wad of $100 bills handed over by the tough-looking man ahead of him in the queue at a fashionable Moscow hotel.

"I thought the rule was nothing larger than a twenty," the visitor said to the cashier as the man left with his converted currency.

"I know," she said, "but if I refused him my life would be in danger."

Sunday's election may have been about who will rule Russia, but for the moment, at least, the mafia makes the rules. That is one reason for the strong showing by Vladimir Zhirinovsky and his ultra-nationalist, neo-imperialist law-and-order colleagues, who bagged a quarter of the vote for — get this — the "Liberal Democratic Party".

Another reason for this vote — and the crucial one — is evident in exit poll data: only a fifth of respondents said they are better off today than they were under socialism. So it is hardly surprising that approval for a constitution broadening the powers of an anaemic presidency was matched by a cry of protest at the dismal state of the collapsed Russian economy. With rampant corruption, galloping violence and runaway inflation, it is remarkable that 70 per cent of voters said they wanted the economic reforms to continue and that a majority were willing to empower the President to act.

Mr Zhirinovsky's call for Russian hegemony over the newly independent republics in "the near abroad", and his call to halt the conversion of Russia's military industries to civilian purposes are pathetically unrealistic. But they are worrying. The challenge arising from the election is about how President Yeltsin and his Western advocates should respond to the thunder on the right.

With the votes barely tallied, President Clinton swiftly said that America was not about to return Alaska to Russia, no matter what Mr Zhirinovsky wants. But for the Baltic states to the north, or the Central Asian republics to the south, or the Poles or Czechs or Ukrainians, Clinton's levity must seem a luxury to be enjoyed by Americans living an ocean away.

Scant though the numbers may be, approval of the constitution gives Boris Yeltsin the authority to press an aggressive programme of economic reform. It is his only option. If he wavers, if he slows the pace of reform because the right opposes it, if he indulges the nationalist opposition's dream of re-establishing Moscow's dominion over its erstwhile empire, he will follow the indecisive Mikhail Gorbachev into oblivion.

Mr Yeltsin's only hope is to foster economic growth by enabling market forces to work. But to do this he will have to cut through Mr Zhirinovsky's every prescription, through every obstacle thrown up by the communists (who ran third), and through the resistance of the military and its supporting bureaucracy. There is no room for him to hedge or trim, there are no differences to be divided between reformers and anti-reformers. Western concepts of compromise and accommodation, far from smoothing the way for change and reform, will only deplete what meagre reserves of will to reform remain after the relentless deterioration of the Russian economy. For Mr Yeltsin and for Russia it will be all or nothing.

Consider the crucial issue of the demilitarisation of the Russian economy. By well-informed estimates, something like 70 per cent of the Russian industrial infrastructure was devoted to the production of military goods and services as recently as 1990. A third or more of the gross domestic product of the former Soviet Union, involving tens of millions of jobs, was in the military sector. (In his years as President, Mr Gorbachev barely made a dent in the size of military spending.)

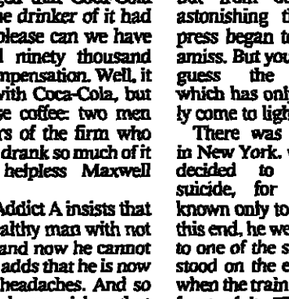
The continuing production of military products may, for the moment, keep some workers at their lathes and some engineers in their labs, but it does so by destroying the potential value of Russia's scarce human and natural resources, by fuelling inflation in the civil sector and by exerting pressure to supply weapons to pariah regimes around the world. Mr Zhirinovsky's wish to prop up the defence industry may be dangerous and self-defeating, but if Mr Yeltsin acquiesces, he will be the one to face the wrath of a nation made poorer, while Mr Zhirinovsky earns the support of defence workers living in a fool's paradise.

One of Mr Yeltsin's most urgent tasks is to unlock the potential wealth inherent in the productive capacity of the military industries. This is a message he must hear from Bill Clinton and John Major and Helmut Kohl, among others. But the danger is that he will instead be told that his friends in the West will be "understanding" if he feels compelled to go slow in dismantling the military-industrial complex.

The same is true of the nationalistic and imperial stirrings which Mr Zhirinovsky sought to excite from a demoralised nation that has only now begun to understand the depths of its failure over three-quarters of a century. The West must not let Mr Yeltsin believe that because we wish him well we will turn a blind eye if he is tempted to indulge his nationalist critics. There are great and dangerous quagmires here. We should be steering Mr Yeltsin away from them. Isn't that what friends are for?

The author was US assistant secretary of defence for international security policy, 1981-87.

A merry dance



THE PRINCESS of Wales's departure from public life may be understandable, but it could not have come at a more inconvenient moment for the world of classical dance. Although she remains a patron of two national ballet companies, the Princess has apparently ruled herself out as the royal presence at what is being billed the ballet event of the decade.

Many of the world's top dancers, including Sylvie Guillem, Darcey Bussell and Mikhail Baryshnikov have already agreed to take part in the first dance tribute to Rudolf Nureyev, which will take place in March at the London Coliseum. All proceeds from the event will go to Crusaid, the Aids charity for which the Princess has worked tirelessly in the past.

Lady Harlech, chairman of English National Ballet (where the Princess remains patron) is organising the do, which she promises will be unique. Every dance will either have been performed or choreographed by Nureyev, in a programme devised by his friend Derek Deane, artistic director of English National Ballet. "The only way you can expect people to pay a good deal is if you give them something that they can never see again," she explains. Her formidable organisational skills once resulted in a gala with John Gielgud dressed as a goose performing a duo with Elton John in platform shoes.

If the Princess of Wales does resist such attractions, Princess Margaret is likely to attend instead. Crusaid, however, has not lost hope: "We are very closely involved in The National Aids Trust, and the Princess of Wales is one of its patrons," says a source, "so as long as we stick in with them, she might still come."

No more perks

AS EVERY schoolchild learns, Lloyd's of London began life in the coffee houses of the City. Now there is a good chance the once-flourishing insurance market may finish in one as well.

Faced with losses estimated at several billion pounds, staff at the market's headquarters — the Richard Rogers building once described as the biggest coffee percolator ever built — are being made to pay 10p a cup for machine coffee. The apparently indifferent beverage has been dispensed without charge since staff moved there seven years ago.

A Lloyd's spokesman admits the charge is part of the new austerity that prevails. "It's all about trying to save money. This is just a rationalisation of the corporation's catering."

News of the charge surprises the Conservative MP Sir Richard Body, a former Lloyd's "name", who recalls having to pay for his coffee when he visited the building. "Maybe I went to the wrong place." A sentiment that many names doubtless share.

No riff raff

THE Chelsea rumour-mill is grinding once again, this time over a house chosen as a London base by one of the newest couples in the showbusiness world. Mark Knopfler, the Princess of Wales's favourite guitarist, has bought a five-bedroom house in the area.

Knopfler has yet to move in, for builders are still hard at work in the £1.6 million home, but one can be certain that the improvements will cater to the new woman in the Dire Straits star's life. Kitty Aldridge, who starred as Francis Urquhart's fetching political adviser in the recent BBC series *To Play the King*, was apparently instrumental in the choice of abode. Despite reports that the couple do not live together, she was spotted by neighbours viewing the property on more than one occasion.

● *Nicholas Soames, our splendidly-proportioned junior agriculture minister, was hoping to counter any pre-nuptial nerves with a spot of shooting today. But Soames, who marries Serena Smith next week, has now been forced to cancel his sporting preparations. Thanks to fellow Conservative MP Harry Greenway, his presence is required in the Commons to respond to an adjournment debate — on animal rights.*

Twice blessed

THE scroll of honours bestowed on Lord St John of Fawsley grows ever longer. Next month, the Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, receives a doctorate from the other place: a D.Litt from Oxford University.

But this is no honorary doctorate. St John has been working on the subject of his thesis, Walter Bagehot and constitutional law, for quarter of a century. Having submitted his efforts to the scrutiny of two examiners, he has passed with flying colours and will receive the honour at a ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre next month, in the presence of fellow peers Lord Runcie and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead.

And he has been excelling in matters athletic as well as cerebral. "I am really delighted by this mark of recognition from Oxford. But I am equally pleased to have been elected president of the Emmanuel boat club," confides the eternal student.

Not renowned for physical exertion, St John confides that he did not row at Cambridge, but was captain of boats at his school, Ratcliffe. "I shall go down and take a great interest," says the peer, who lists among his hobbies sleeping, talking and appearing on television. "But my role will be inspirational."

Blob's your uncle

EVEN friends of John Redwood have been heard to bemoan his lack of the human touch at times. But the ultra-dry Welsh Secretary yesterday took steps to answer their worries by disclosing a secret admiration for the television character Mr Blobby.

"Mr Blobby is a round, nice person and no one has a bad thing to say about him," the young Cabinet minister told a CBI lunch in Cardiff. "I want to be as popular as him."

But any plans Redwood might have to double his weight and come out in pink and yellow spots has been stymied by a Cabinet colleague who points out a serious drawback. He'd clash with the Chancellor.



● *Expect a low profile from our new man in the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, where diplomatic relations were established yesterday. The Foreign Office could not help with a polite request for a photograph of Tony Millson. "But they're available from the Central Office of Information — about £71 each."*

هكذا من الأصل

A PROPER CORE

The curriculum as rough sketch rather than strict pattern

For six years, a government supposedly committed to radical reform has been tossed about like a feather in a breeze by the educational establishment. Two Prime Ministers, Margaret Thatcher and John Major, and a clutch of Education Secretaries — Kenneth Baker, John MacGregor, Kenneth Clarke and John Patten — have each proved incapable of imposing their will on a recalcitrant teaching profession. Now at last a conciliatory quango chairman has finally returned the national curriculum to what it was always intended to be. As we report on page one today, the curriculum to be shared by all schools should now be a rough sketch of what they should teach rather than a detailed knitting pattern.

This is what Baroness Thatcher had in mind back in 1987. As she writes in her memoirs: "I wanted the Department of Education and Science to concentrate on establishing a basic syllabus for English, Mathematics and Science with simple tests to show what pupils knew. I never envisaged that we would end up with the bureaucracy and the thicket of prescriptive measures which eventually emerged." The Cabinet sub-committee that she chaired decided that the obligatory subjects in the national curriculum should absorb no more than 70 per cent of school time. Yet the version with which schools are now struggling is claimed to take up more than 100 per cent: there is not enough time to cover all the compulsory ground, still less to have flexibility.

Even Baroness Thatcher cannot explain how she allowed teachers to get the better of her intentions. A cynical interpretation would be that educationists were determined to make the curriculum and its associated tests unworkable. So they insisted on as much detail as possible in the curriculum and on a complex system of assessment far away from the simple pencil-and-paper tests that the then Prime Minister envisaged. A more charitable explanation would be that, because the curriculum was designed subject by subject, its setters became vulnerable to pressure from lobbyists for each individual subject and lost sight of the totality. Whatever the reason, the result was a vast, over-prescriptive academic programme with tests that hugely increased the workload of individual teachers. Not only the militants, but also the most moderate of teachers, united against them.

It has taken Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, to inject some sense into the reforms. His interim report, published last August, seemed to have been intended above all to mollify the teaching profession by dropping examination league tables for seven and 14-year-olds. Its efforts to pare down the national curriculum were, however, more admirable. The final version, to be published formally in the New Year, marks a return to the English, Maths and Science core curriculum that the government always wanted. At least 20 per cent of school time will be freed for subjects such as the classics or vocational education, a move that as well as encouraging local autonomy will also allow schools to specialise a little.

Sir Ron will also suggest that the curriculum is reconsidered all at once: a sensible suggestion that should ensure that the framers are not ambushed once again by subject specialists. His proposed timetable is intended to provide a whole summer term for consultation, rather than merely the summer holiday that so enraged teachers last time. Mr Patten should not hesitate to accept his proposals.

BLOODY ALGERIAN OMENS

Islamic parties must be clearly tested by democracy

The slaughter by Muslim terrorists of 12 Croatian and Bosnian technicians on Tuesday should compel western governments to focus again on Algeria. Since the cancellation, in January 1992, of the second round of the general elections, that country has become virtually ungovernable and as close to civil war as makes no difference.

It was apparent, then, that had the elections proceeded, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) would have controlled parliament in north Africa's largest country. Unwilling, in the circumstances, to preach what they practiced, the reaction of western governments was an ambivalent, if pragmatic, fudge. There was no overt expression of approval. But disapproval bites more effectively than approval exhorts: there was no condemnation.

The suspension of elections should now be seen as a serious tactical and political error. It was a decision that flowed from a manichean view, understandable in the atmosphere which then prevailed, that elections which led to a FIS triumph would result (in the words of former President Chadli Benjedid) in "grave and imminent harm to national cohesion". A more convincing case for the suspension of elections was made in the form of sharp questions raised about the democratic *bona fides* of FIS. Should a political party or movement be allowed to ascend to the top of a democratic structure if it intends, when in power, to dismantle the structure itself?

The time for facile solutions, if there ever was one, has passed. Proscribed and driven underground, with its leaders incarcerated, FIS, the putative winners of the elections, have become thoroughly radicalised. But although they polled a quarter of the vote, it would be wrong to treat this as an endorsement of Islamic fundamentalism, particularly for the establishment of an Islamic republic and the introduction of *sharia*. Many who voted for FIS (in what might now be called the "Zhirinovsky syndrome") did so in frustration and anger over unemployment, corruption and political stagnation. Little has changed.

Over 80 per cent of Algeria's income goes towards the repayment of its debts, and over 90 per cent of this income results from the sale of oil and natural gas. Unemployment, already over 30 per cent of the workforce, is rising. The attacks on foreigners, which have led to something resembling an exodus, could deal a mortal blow to the economy. The departure of foreigners is alarming because it is a vote of no-confidence in Algeria.

There are lessons in this for others. Egypt must avoid this descent into anarchy. Yesterday, the government in Cairo hanged three Islamic militants, convicted of terrorism by the controversial military courts instituted in October 1992, from whose decision there lies no appeal. President Mubarak is a valuable ally of the west, and a bulwark of stability in the politics of his region. Worryingly, however, he presides over a country starved, unacceptably, of authentic democracy and political freedoms. This does little other than breed militancy.

The elections held in Jordan in November, the freest ever in the Arab world, were a salutary lesson. King Hussain, sagacious and realist in equal measure, was alert to the dangers that could result from an outlawed, underground Islamic movement. He sought to co-opt Islamic parties into the political system, all the better to counter them. His is the better paradigm; Algeria is a charnel house today.

SMALL SCREENWARP

South Africans can at last catch up on their viewing

Thanks to a vigorous export drive, and a carefully cultivated image of excellence, the best of BBC television has long been the standard fare of small screens around the world. Classics such as the *Forsyte Saga* enthralled even the Russians at a time when western television was virtually unknown in the Soviet Union: *Monty Python* has been dubbed or subtitled — goodness knows how — in a dozen languages, and the dead parrot sketch or the Ministry of Silly Walks still baffle the more outlandish parts of the global village.

The one country that was bereft of BBC characters that have entered the folkore of nations was South Africa. Television arrived there late. Thereafter Equity's ban on any performance there during the years of apartheid kept South African audiences, apartheid kept South African audiences, black and white, blissfully ignorant of Alf Garnett and Basil Fawlty; the mirror of British comedy was never held up to South Africans, many of whom would be startled to recognise types that are flourishing today wherever English is spoken.

Now the ban has been lifted, the BBC has been making up for lost time and earnings. South Africans are about to discover the eternal verities of government in *Yes Minister*; they too can indulge in *Blackadder*; and *The Fortunes of War* will also sweep southern audiences through the turbulent tides of the Second World War. Judging by the excitement, generated by years of tantalising glimpses on holidays abroad, many can hardly wait. Certainly, the prospect of the best of British comedy and drama would thrill most domestic audiences in Britain, jaded as they are with tired repeats and second-class pap that now passes for new series.

But the BBC exports, now being negotiated, still leave the lacunae of earlier years. What about all those generation-forming programmes from the Sixties and Seventies? Will South Africans ever meet *Dr Who*? Will they learn from insights into parental bullying and filial ingratitude in *Steptoe and Son*, not forgetting the horse? Will they come full circle, like British audiences, and savour the antics of Captain Mainwaring and his warriors?

It would be pleasing if the BBC could take South Africa, emerging from its cultural and political isolation, back to the 1960s and 1970s that the country missed. A feast of golden oldies would plunge the country into a televisual timewarp. Britain would undoubtedly appear a quaint and stilted place, and South Africans would be much amused, with the benefit of hindsight, watching the speeded-up evolution of attitudes and social mores — on race, sex, authority, rebellion, youth culture and rock music. They might wonder that there were so few black faces on British television, that there was so much respect still for political authority — despite *That was the Week That Was* — or that sport was still so free of violence, and vitriol. South Africans would enjoy afresh everything now taken for granted in current programme-making. And they would have an inexhaustible fund of television talk to share with the rest of the BBC-educated world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

QC resigns over policy on victims

From Mr Martin Thomas, QC

Sir, The proposals contained in the White Paper published yesterday, *Compensating Victims of Violent Crime* (reports, December 15, 16) are totally unacceptable. The Government is abandoning compensation based on an individual assessment of the personal circumstances of a victim. Yet it is the personal needs of each casualty of crime which ought to be met.

After eight rewarding years as a member of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, I resigned yesterday, so that I can campaign vigorously against the proposed changes.

The board was set up in 1964, and, with the approbation of all parties, compensation became payable to victims of violent crime to be assessed on the basis of common law damages.

As was said at the time, violent injury can affect different people in many different ways, and not all of its effects are apparent at first sight. The basis on which judges award damages when they make a common law award is the best calculated to evaluate fairly for the claimant all those imponderables in his condition which may result from the infliction of injury.

A further essential of the scheme was seen to be that awards of compensation from public funds should be made by individuals who were experienced in this field. The then Home Secretary said that the object in setting up a board of distinguished lawyers to determine claims was to make its decisions wholly independent of government.

The new proposals for setting a tariff for each injury, payable to claimants regardless of their individual needs, are a retreat from justice. Loss of earnings are now to be excluded, so that wage-earners may suffer not only disabling injury, but also severe financial hardship.

Widows of murder victims will receive a single lump sum, regardless of the loss of their husbands' support and pension rights. The different effects of injury, as between the vulnerable and the robust, the young and the old, are to be ignored.

This policy reverse derives from a management review by Treasury and Home Office officials, led by a project coordinator from a private-sector management consultancy company, whose brief was to bring "sharply focused management skills" to bear on the project.

The nine-man team interviewed the chairman, Lord Carlisle, and two or three board members; but they did not adequately consider the general views and experience of the board as a whole, whose practical knowledge, gained over many years, and fund of deep concern for individual cases were overlooked and their reservations over-ridden.

The suggestion in the White Paper that the Government's aim is "to provide a better service to victims" is hypocritical nonsense. The Government is anxious to save money at the expense of victims. That is why the tariff system is to be introduced, with an upper limit imposed upon it. That is the reason for removing the power to make decisions from an independent body, to the servants of government departments.

The changes are a cross-party issue and I hope all concerned people in public life will join to defeat them.

Yours etc,
MARTIN THOMAS
(President, Welsh Liberal Democrats),
1 Dr Johnson's Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
December 16.

Royalty and morals

From Mr Cliff Harrison

Sir, The royal family is expected, and is handsomely paid, to set a moral example to the nation [letters, December 9, 11, 14]. Unfair, perhaps, but life is not fair.

The Princess of Wales stressed her intention to bring up her children in the tradition into which they had been born (report, December 4).

The Prince of Wales was also brought up in that tradition. His great-grandmother, Queen Mary, is reputed to have reminded her son that the throne is more important than its occupant. His grandmother and his mother have always respected this philosophy.

If the Prince cannot find the strength of character to discard any personal obsessions which are an embarrassment to royal tradition, the Archdeacon of York is right; rather than lose the respect of the British people it would be better for the country, and himself, that he did not occupy the throne.

Yours faithfully,
C. HARRISON,
205 Heywood Road,
Prestwich, Manchester 25.
December 12.

From Mr R. W. Groves

Sir, On your front page recently the Archdeacon of York was described as being "the voice of the Church's moralist wing" (report, December 8). What other wings of the Church could there be, which cannot also be so described?

Yours faithfully,
R. W. GROVES,
27 Burleigh Gardens,
Southgate, N14.
December 10.

Action call from Maxwell victims

From the Chairman of the Maxwell Pensioners Action Group

Sir, Sir John Cuckney, chairman of the Maxwell Pensioners Trust set up to help Maxwell's 32,000 pension victims, wrote in a letter to *The Times* on January 11, 1993 (a year after Maxwell's death):

I do sincerely hope that all concerned will find a common interest in trying to secure an outcome within the next six months which will give the pensioners confidence that their pensions will be secure in the longer term. *Their present mental anguish must not be allowed to continue* (my italics).

Sir John's six-month deadline has come and gone. The pensioners' anger and despair mount as they now enter their third year of mental anguish. This is the third Christmas pensioners have had to buy presents not knowing how long their pensions will continue to be paid.

The only notified recovery of assets this year is the £500,000 Ian Maxwell paid to avoid being made bankrupt (report, March 4). Several times that amount has been paid from the pensioners' remaining funds to the professionals representing them.

Sir John's hopes of finding a sensible solution away from the courts seem to be fast slipping away. A welter of litigation looks increasingly inevitable, and falling interest rates have dramatically worsened the pensioners' position by increasing the capital required to generate sufficient income for future pensions.

There has been much talk of moral responsibility in the Maxwell affair. The Government should accept that it bears much responsibility for not putting into place legislation and regulation that properly protected pension investment.

The Government should immediately take from the Maxwell pensioners the costly task of unravelling a legal mess not of the pensioners' making. The trustees of the pension funds should assign all rights under the various legal actions over to the Maxwell Pensions Unit that the Government set up to help the pensioners, and Maxwell pensioners should be included in the new compensation scheme recommended by the Goode committee last September.

This would not only give them back their long-term security; it would also give the UK's 15 million pension scheme members increased faith in a pension system that needs to grow dramatically over the next decade to underpin the faltering state system.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH TRENCH,
Chairman,
Maxwell Pensioners Action Group,
The Warren, 12 Briar Hill,
Purley, Surrey.
December 9.

Control of objectionable videos

From the Director, British Board of Film Classification

Sir, Peter Murcott (letter, December 9) compares the 31 video titles banned by the British Board of Film Classification between 1985 and 1992 with the 344 banned by the Irish Official Censor of Films by July 1993 under Irish legislation "which came into force in 1991". But to assume that such figures prove that Irish censorship is the stricter is not to compare like with like.

The BBFC only classifies (or rejects) materials submitted to it by distributors, most of whom know well enough the standards imposed by the board and do not wish to waste time and money submitting videos that are certain to be rejected. The Irish censor, as Mr Murcott says, assesses video material submitted to him after seizure, most if not all of which would not be classified in Britain either.

The standards imposed by the BBFC make it clear that, under the terms of our designation by Parliament, the board must "continue to seek to avoid classifying works which are obscene in the meaning of the Obscene Publications Acts or which infringe other provisions of the criminal law".

Under the Video Recordings Act the board's law-enforcement function is limited to examining seized videos and certifying whether, on the date of seizure, classification certificates had or had not been issued. From April 1989 to November 1993 the board examined 8,573 seized videos, some two thirds of which were found to be unclassified. The suppliers were in most cases found guilty of a criminal offence.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES FERMAN, Director,
British Board of Film Classification,
3 Soho Square, W1.
December 13.

From Mr George C. Aitken

Sir, Sir Philip Goodhart's suggestion (letter, December 6) for taxing certain types of film or videotape could have consequences very different from those he envisages and intends.

If something, apparently deemed undesirable, especially in the area of "entertainment" or "pleasure", is to be strictly controlled, and partially suppressed, by swingeing charges and taxes or other means, then the obvious and near-immediate outcome would be of opportunities being created for rackets and illicit operations. These would soon be taken up, and welcomed, by those so minded.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE C. AITKEN,
Whitrig, Coldstream, Berwickshire.
December 8.

'Farce' of Scott enquiry

From Mr Hugh Hanning

Sir, There are much deeper issues at stake in the Scott enquiry into arms sales to Iraq than are discussed in Simon Jenkins's article of December 11, "Whitehall's costliest farce" [also letters, December 14].

Within the last 12 years Britain has blundered into two totally unnecessary wars, and some of us can see no reason why it should not happen again — or, as Lady Thatcher might say, again and again and again.

Both wars broke out because we encouraged the aggressor to believe that we would not fight. We encouraged Galtieri by announcing the withdrawal of our last warship from the Falklands. We encouraged Saddam by plying him with weapons systems at the precise moment when he was wondering whether he could get away with invading Kuwait.

The green light from Whitehall to Saddam acquired an almost dazzling brilliance at the ministerial meeting of July 19, 1990, exactly two weeks before the invasion, when all weapon restrictions were effectively removed. In each case, deterrence would have been perfectly possible. But in each case the foreign policy machine collapsed.

After the Falklands, Lord Franks — whose work, in contrast to Scott's, Mr Jenkins commends — exposed the system but made no serious proposals to put it right.

This time we simply must find out what went wrong so that we can stop treating these wars as if they were a bit of bad luck, which the Foreign Office would like us to think, and start trying to prevent them.

Yours etc,
HUGH HANNING,
18 Montpelier Row, Blackheath, SE3.
December 11.

Buildings at risk

From Mr Michael Pearce

Sir, Concern expressed in the *Chartered Surveyor Weekly* that the listing of historic buildings may prevent their alteration (report, December 7) may be somewhat exaggerated.

The statistics of planning applications published by the Department of the Environment show that something under 5 per cent of listed buildings are the subject of applications each year, of which about 90 per cent are approved.

The point of listing a building is to allow questions as to its future to be resolved publicly; to allow consultation and negotiation; and to allow the building as it exists to be recorded. In the great majority of cases these arrangements achieve a mutually acceptable scheme.

It is true that there remain some 30,000 listed buildings which are unoccupied. Our task, and that of others, is to help to find economic new uses.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL PEARCE
(Manager),
Buildings at Risk Trust,
52 Hollows Close,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
December 7.

With the postal delays that often occur at this time of year, it is useful, where possible, for letters to be faxed to 071-782 5046. Please give contact telephone numbers.

Whitehall pressures

From Mr George Wedd

Sir, Professor Delafons's letter (December 14) on the problems of hyperactive public servants on retirement ought to be pondered by civil servants now in their thirties and forties.

There is no relationship — unless it be an inverse one — between the activity rate of the higher Civil Service and the nation's well-being. The Department of the Environment was always anxious to show ministers that no task was beyond it. It carried through, for example, the Housing Finance Act 1972 which, by enforced increases in council house rents, played its part in bringing down the Heath Government which wanted it. If it had failed, or at least been much slower, in introducing the community charge, how much happier we would have been.

Seeded through that department are always brilliant and hyperactive men and women who do not merely overwork themselves but are the cause of overwork in others: and in the longer perspective — which does not have to be all that long, but merely stretch into their own retirement — it really doesn't do.

Now that John Delafons no longer writes my annual reports, I think I can safely say so.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WEDD
(Under-Secretary, Department of the Environment, 1976-90),
The Lodge, Church Hill,
High Littleton, Bristol, Avon.

The real cost of drink-driving

From Mr Charles Farrow

Sir, Figures supplied by the Automobile Association and quoted by Brian MacArther ("Drink, drive and be sorry", Weekend, December 11) show that 531,000 drivers were subjected to tests during 1992 and that, of these 87,000 proved positive. Or, to look at it in another way, only one in six of those tested had committed an offence but 440,000 drivers, during the course of that year, had to endure the humiliation of taking such tests under the curious gaze of the general public.

I speak with some knowledge of this as it has happened to me on two occasions — once after being cautioned regarding a failed rear light and again, when I parked with my nearside wheels on the pavement. In neither case was alcohol remotely involved.

The average length of time for ever a "non-productive" test is probably half an hour, which means that the police spent 265,500 man hours applying such tests during 1992. And this takes no note of the fact that, more often than not, two officers comprise a team.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES FARROW,
Hown Hall, Weston-under-Penyard,
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.
December 13.

From Mr S. N. Day

Sir, Brian MacArthur's article is a timely reminder of the unpleasant consequences of a conviction for driving with excess alcohol, even if he forgets to mention the disastrous consequences that the commission of the offence may have for others.

He shows a tendency to minimise his culpability in writing about drivers "whose only offence is to be slightly over the limit" but this may be due to a misapprehension on his part. He states his reading of 53 was three points over the limit but he is wrong — the limit is 35 and he was therefore 50 per cent over, although up to 50 points an alternative of blood or urine may be supplied for analysis.

Yours faithfully,
S. N. DAY
(Stipendiary magistrate),
The Court House,
The Hyde, Hendon, NW9.
December 13.

From Mr Derek Martin

Sir, Brian MacArthur's view that "those drivers whose only offence is to be slightly over the limit" are treated harshly is an example of the attitude which ensures that drink-driving continues despite all attempts to deter it.

Even slightly too much alcohol can lead to accidents, and although the victims may end up only "slightly" dead, I suspect this distinction would be lost on their families.

If Mr MacArthur were to change his words to read "those drivers whose only offence is knowingly to put people's lives at risk", he might understand the views of those who urge stiffer penalties.

Yours faithfully,
D. P. MARTIN,
71 Landcross Drive, Northampton.
December 11.

From Mr Hugh I. Arnold

Sir, I take the "drink-driving" issue as seriously as anyone. But it does seem wrong to me that the same breathalyser standards are applied to mature adults with ingrained driving skills, who are long accustomed to a modest intake of alcohol, and to callow youths who are practically legless after two glasses of beer.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH I. ARNOLD,
11 Dane Heights,
Seaford, East Sussex.

Wind and waves

From Mr D. A. C. A. Boyne

Sir, If the first Osprey wave machine (report and picture, December 16), to be sited off Dounreay, Highland, is shown to be efficient at generating electricity, surely the next stage is to improve that efficiency by mounting masts with wind-powered turbines above the structure.

Wind speeds at sea may not be as great as they are on hilltops, but there would surely be less opposition from those anxious to protect the countryside. That lack of opposition, in terms of saving time, planning enquiries and general administrative complexity, would go some way to compensate for any lower efficiency.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. C. A. BOYNE,
Pound House, Wells, Somerset.

That sinking feeling

From Mr Tony Cottle

Sir, I am the proverbial struggling small businessman, so my glee at finally receiving festive greetings from the manager and staff of the local branch of Lloyds Bank was somewhat tempered by their choice of an RNLI charity card depicting a sinking ship with boatmen rowing desperately against the tide.

I am now in a state of considerable panic. What are they trying to tell me?

Yours faithfully,
TONY COTTLE,
4 Northway Court, Bishopston,
Swansea, West Glamorgan.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 16: His Excellency Monsieur Alphonse Ntangoula was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Congo to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Monsieur Youssouf Bakoula (First Counsellor), Monsieur Damien Gouari (Financial Counsellor) and Monsieur Dieudonne Moukengue (Chief of Protocol).

Madame Ntangoula was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir David Gillmore (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr Justice Pringle was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court in Northern Ireland when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The Queen held a Council at 12.30pm.

There were present: the Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President), the Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting), the Lord Fraser of Carmyllie (Minister of State, Scottish Office), the Rt Hon Virginia Bottomley MP (Secretary of State for Health), the Rt Hon Peter Brooke MP (Secretary of State for National Heritage) and the Rt Hon Richard Ryder MP (Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury).

The Rt Hon Sir Denis Henry was sworn in as a member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

December 16: The Duke of York this evening attended a Dinner to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic at the Mansion House, London EC2, and was received by the Lord Mayor (Alderman Paul Newall).

Captain Neil Blair RN was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 16: The Princess Royal today attended the Decommissioning Ceremony of HMS Jersey at Her Majesty's Naval Base, Rosyth, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Fife (the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine Kt).

Mrs David Bowes-Lyon was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 16: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, today visited Duchy property in Cornwall, followed by a Luncheon at the Headland Hotel, Newquay, Cornwall, for tenants of the Western District.

Mr John James was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 16: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Centrepoint Soho, attended the Annual General Meeting and Twenty Fifth Anniversary Year launch at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, the Mall, London SW1.

Captain Edward Musto RM was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at "Joy to the World" held at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide (of which Her Royal Highness is President), the Royal Marsden Children's Cancer Unit and Save the Children.

The Hon Mrs Whitehead was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 16: The Duchess of Kent this evening attended the Annual Christmas Celebration at Westminster Cathedral, Francis Street, London SW1.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Mr Peter Blackburn, chairman, Nestlé UK, 53; Dame Mary Cartwright, mathematician, 93; Professor Mark Casson, economist, 48; Mr Christopher Cazenove, actor, 48; Viscount Daventry, 72; Lord de Villiers, 82; Lord Glenamara, CH, 81; Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 49; the Hon Dominic Lawson, editor, *The Spectator*, 37; Lord McFadzean, KT, 90; Mr Tom Mayer, electronic engineer, 65; Mr Kerry Packer, chairman, Australian publishing companies, 56; Sir Leonard Peach, chairman, Police Complaints Authority, 60; Mr Robert Robinson, broadcaster, 66; Mr D.A.G. Smith, headmaster, Bradford Grammar School, 59; Mr Tommy Steele, actor and singer, 57; Baroness Strange, 65; Mr Denis Tunnicliffe, managing director, London Underground, 50.

School news

The King's School, Canterbury
Sixth Form Scholarships
King's Scholarships — Vina Kishore, Bancroft's School; Delphine Strauss, The Lady Eleanor Holles School. **OKS Scholarship** — Jennifer Gray, James Allen's Girls' School. **Hoffman Scholarships** — Timothy Gomersall, The King's School, Canterbury; Venetia Taylor, Woldingham School. **Music Scholarships** — Jessica Barnes, James Allen's Girls' School; Anna Cook, Ardingly College; Elizabeth Kinross, Streatham & Clapham High School.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the British Menswear Guild, will visit the London Badge and Button Company, Clement Street, Birmingham, at 2.00; as Vice Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Land-Rover Vehicles, Lode Lane, Solihull, at 3.00; and will attend a concert of the Black Voices Choir at Birmingham Town Hall at 7.10.

Appointments

London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association
The London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association is delighted to announce that Robert Owen, QC, has become Chairman and Peter Gross, QC, Vice-Chairman with effect from December 14, 1993.

Professor Brenda Hoggett QC to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Family Division. Professor Hoggett will be known as Mrs Justice Hale.

Elections

The Earl of Selborne to be a Vice President of the Foundation for Science and Technology; Lord Perry of Walton to be a Member of the Foundation.

JULIAN HERBERT



Workmen replace the final timber, a massive oak bracket, on the Mary Rose at Portsmouth yesterday

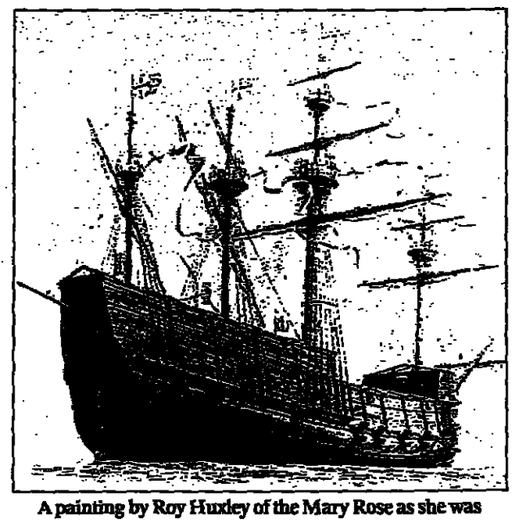
The Mary Rose is shipshape again

THE final timber was replaced yesterday in the hull of the *Mary Rose*, the Tudor warship which was raised from the bed of the Solent in 1982 (John Young writes). It is a large piece of oak which acted as a bracket to support screens protecting archers on the open deck.

The 375 timbers were removed from the hull, along with some 27,000 artefacts, during the excavation. They were numbered for identification and have since been progressively put back in place.

Since she was brought ashore, the ship, which is on display in a quayside building at the Royal Naval dockyard in Portsmouth, has been constantly sprayed with chilled fresh water to prevent the timbers from drying out. The final stage of conservation will begin next April, when the timbers will be treated with a water-soluble wax, a process expected to take at least 25 years.

The *Mary Rose* was built on the orders of Henry VIII as his flagship. Her successes included sinking the French flagship off Brest in 1512, but in 1545 disaster struck when she sank in 50ft of water, with the loss of 700 lives, while the king and his court watched from Southsea castle.



A painting by Roy Huxley of the Mary Rose as she was

Dinners

Corporation of London
The Duke of York was present at a dinner given by the Corporation of London last night at the Mansion House to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs and their ladies received the guests. Others present included:

The Norwegian Ambassador and Mrs Eliassen, the Canadian High Commissioner, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation and Mrs Pankin, the Greek Ambassador and Mrs Gounaris, the French Ambassador, the Earl of Cathcart, Viscount and Viscountess Runciman of Doxford, Lord and Lady Mottistone, Lord and Lady Moran, Lord Donaldson of Lymington and Dame Mary Donaldson, Lord and Lady Sterling of Plaistow, the President of the Chamber of Shipping and Mrs Vesey, the Director-General of the Chamber of Shipping and Lady Hunt, aldermen, common councilmen and officers of the Corporation of London and their guests.

Richard Dimbleby Cancer Fund
Mrs Ronald Travers, Chairman of the Richard Dimbleby Cancer Fund, was host at a dinner held last night at the Savile Club to welcome Professor Ian Hart as the Richard Dimbleby Professor of Cancer Research at the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guys and St Thomas's Hospital.

Among those present were:
Sir Walter Bodmer (Director General of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund), Professor Cyril Chantler (Principal, UMDS), Professor Robert Rubens, Professor Janet Banatvala, Dr Jennifer Best, Dr Thelma Bates, Sister Janie Grant, Mr David Dimbleby, Mr Jonathan Dimbleby, Mr Nicholas Dimbleby, Miss Sally Dimbleby, Mr and Mrs John Haines and Mr Ronald Travers.

Britain's neglected buildings seek wealthy caring rescuers

BY JOHN YOUNG

CASTLES and country houses, churches and chapels, shops and cottages, farms and barns, railway stations, schools, inns, warehouses and abandoned mine buildings are all included in the latest chronicle of the neglect of Britain's architectural heritage published today by the conservation group, Save Britain's Heritage (SAVE).

More than 150 deserted and decaying buildings are described and pictured in the booklet which, like the group's previous publications, is intended mainly to find rescuers for buildings whose owners are unable or unwilling to look after them. Hundreds of buildings have been saved, but others have remained a cause for concern, usually because the restoration costs are too high or because they are in economically depressed areas.

Barns and railway stations are a particular cause for concern, SAVE says. Timber framed barns, such as the Elizabethan Whenham Manor barn, near Petersfield, West Sussex, are left to rot because of disagreements over planning strategies for their re-use. Cromer railway station, in Norfolk, opened in 1887 when the town was being promoted as a fashionable resort, has twice been refused listing and the present owners, Safeway, are keen to demolish it.

Despite claims that Britain has the most comprehensive armoury of preservation laws in the world, they are not the most effective, the report says. "In case after case simple failure to carry out the most basic maintenance, such as clearing gutters and replacing slipped tiles and slates, leads to a vicious and crippling downward spiral of wet and dry rot, with the building becoming an invitation to vandalism in the process."

Far from being blighted by noisy roads, noxious factories or the overpowering smell of silage from a farm across the garden wall, most of the decaying buildings are in pleasant villages or streets, or in attractive countryside, it says. But for years district councillors have shied away from issuing repairs notices, fearing that owners would respond by claiming that the buildings had no beneficial use and demanding that the council buy them and repair them at ratepayers' expense.

In practice that has happened only rarely, it claims. Usually, as soon as a council serves a repairs notice, the owner either carries out the work or puts the property on the market.

In the last resort the National Heritage Secretary may serve a repairs notice himself, a power rarely used until last year when, after the owners of a large part of The Crescent in Buxton, Derbyshire, failed to respond, the Government issued a compulsory purchase order and the owners agreed to sell. "There could not have been a better or speedier outcome to a problem that had dragged on for years," the report says.

Some of the buildings featured in the booklet are derelict and dangerous, others merely vacant long enough for the process of decay to start, SAVE says. Properly approached, they can provide accommodation or workshop space, low cost housing or high quality homes.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr B.P.S. Bal and Dr M.K. Waraich
The engagement is announced between Bhupinder, elder son of Mr and Mrs G.S. Bal, of Hampton, Middlesex, and Manprit, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.S. Waraich, of Oakdene, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.

Mr P.P. Balcombe and Miss D.S. Woolf
The engagement is announced between Paul, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Philip Balcombe, and Danielle, younger daughter of Mrs Bernice Woolf and the late Mr Ivon Woolf.

Mr E.W.H. Cullen and Miss E.L.N. Ford
The engagement is announced between Edmund, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Terence Cullen, of Canonbury, London, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.G. Ford, of Hallaton, Leicestershire.

Mr K.M.W. Davis and Miss S.R.W. Hornby
The engagement is announced between Kenneth, son of Mr and Mrs David Davis, of Elm End House, Henton, Oxfordshire, and Susanna, daughter of Mr John Hornby, of Claygate, Surrey, and Mrs Rory O'Brien, of Stonyhurst, Lancashire.

Professor R.O. Goss and Miss G.M. Page
The engagement is announced between Richard Goss, younger son of the late Squadron Leader and Mrs L.A. Goss, of Finchley, and Gillian Page, of London NW11, only daughter of Mrs Mary Page and the late Mr B.L. Page.

Mr R. Hale and Miss L. Meinertzhagen
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of the late Mr Roger Hale and of Mrs Susan Hale, of Brecon, Wales, and Lucy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Ran Meinertzhagen, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Mr S.L. McGeoch and Miss J.A. Kelly
The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Dr and Mrs K.L. McGeoch, of Paisley, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.A.G. Kelly, of Camberley.

Mr J.J. Sykes and Miss S.L. Lawton
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.J. Sykes, of Gaddesden Row, Hertfordshire, and Susannah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Lawton, of London.

Dr J. Hart and Dr J. Stilgoe
The engagement is announced between James, son of Dr and Mrs Michael Hart, of Houghton, Cambridgeshire, and Jemima, daughter of Mr Richard Stilgoe, of Crockham Hill, Kent, and of Mrs David Shirreff, of Putney, London.

Major E.F. Hobbs and Dr J.R. Buxton
The engagement is announced between Major Erik Francis Hobbs, Grenadier Guards, eldest son of the late Mr Richard Hobbs and of Mrs Hobbs, of Alton, Hampshire, and Joanna Rachel, daughter of Dr and Mrs Paul Buxton, of Old Inzievar, Fife.

Mr R.D. Holmes and Miss O.J.L. Roberts
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Hugo Holmes, of Salcombe, Devon, and Ouvrielle, daughter of the late General Sir Ouvry Roberts and of Lady Roberts, of Iffley, Oxfordshire.

Lieutenant M. Jones and Miss E.J. Roberts
The engagement is announced between Michael Jones, The Gloucestershire Regiment, younger son of Mrs P.N. Davis and stepson of Mr A.R. Davis, of Bristol, and Erica, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J. Roberts, of Brussels.

Mr M.H. Pearson and Miss M.J. Heath
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Pearson, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, and Marion, daughter of Mr and Mrs Noel Heath, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.C. Pugh and Miss J.R. Horrell
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Pugh, of Trumpridge, Hertfordshire, and Jennifer, youngest daughter of Group Captain and Mrs John A. Horrell, of Bourn, Cambridgeshire.

Mr C.D. Ward and Miss C. O'Rourke
The engagement is announced between Christopher David, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Graham Ward, of Ottery St Mary, Devon, and Catherine, second daughter of Mr John O'Rourke and the late Mrs Anne O'Rourke, of Naas, County Kildare.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Prince Rupert, royalist commander in the civil war, Prague, 1619; Domenico Cimarosa, composer, Naples, 1749; Sir Humphry Davy, inventor of the miners' safety lamp, Penzance, 1778; John Greenleaf Whittier, poet, Haverhill, Massachusetts, 1807; Jules de Goncourt, diarist, Paris, 1830; Ford Madox Ford, novelist and critic, Merton, Surrey, 1873; W.L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada 1921-26, 1926-30 and 1935-48, Berlin, Ontario, 1874.

DEATHS: Simon Bolivar, "Liberator" of South America, Santa Marta, Colombia, 1830; William Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin, physicist, Largs, Strathclyde, 1907; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, physician and advocate of women's rights to practise medicine, Aldeburgh, 1917; Sir Bernard Spilsbury, pathologist, London, 1947; Dorothy L. Sayers, detective novelist, essayist and translator, Witham, Essex, 1957; Harold Holt, Prime Minister of Australia 1966-67, drowned off Portsea, Victoria, 1967.

The first powered flight was achieved by the Wright brothers in the *Kitty Hawk*, at Kill Devil Hill, North Carolina, 1903.

The battle of the River Plate: the Graf Spee was scuttled off Montevideo, 1939.

University news

Cambridge
Miss Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Dame Maggie Smith, the actress, are among nine people nominated for honorary degrees to be conferred on June 9 next year. The list is subject to formal approval by the Regent House on January 22. The full list is:

Archbishop Robin Eames, Primate of All Ireland since 1986; President Richard von Weizsacker, President of the Federal Republic of Germany since 1984; Sir Douglas Black, formerly Professor of Medicine at Manchester University and Chief Scientist at the Department of Health; Sir Nevill Mott, formerly Cavendish Professor of Physics and Master of Caius College, Cambridge, joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1977; Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a Lord of Appeal; Sir Adrian Cadbury, a director of the Bank of England since 1970 and Vice-Chairman of the Cambridge Foundation, the University's appeal organisation; Claudio Abbado, conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Darwin College
Elected to a Visiting Fellowship: Flora May Lewis (Munby Fellow in Bibliography 1994-95).

Latest wills

Mr James Walkinshaw Wishart, of Totteridge Village, London N20, left estate valued at £5,018,750 net.

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We have reason to thank God continually because when we handed on God's message, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but as what it truly is, the very word of God at work in you who are believers.
1 Thessalonians 2 : 13 (REB)

BIRTHS

BROWN - On 14th December, to Catherine (née Docherty) and Nigel, a daughter, Emily Frances.

COULSON - On December 12th, to Helen (née Armstrong) and Richard, a daughter, Alice Elizabeth Jane.

DAVIS - On December 16th, to Suzanne (née Rae) and John, a daughter, Caroline Catherine Alexandra.

ENGLISH - On 28th November, to Philippa and Stephen, a son, Sebastian, a brother for Georgina.

FIRTH - On December 15th, to Katy and Mark, a daughter - Amy, a sister for Jessica.

HAWKSEAVES - On 9th December, to Alison (née Simkins) and Richard, a daughter, Holly Georgina Charlotte, a sister for William.

HEWETT - On 10th December to Sarah (née Knox) and Christopher, a son, Jonathan Robert, a brother for James.

IDRISS - On December 7th 10.30 am at the Wellington Hospital, to Natil and Abir, a handsome baby boy, their first child. Welcome Adam.

MAITLAND - See Reid.

MARSHALL - On December 9th to Alison (née Robertson) and Harry, a son, Charles Henry, a brother for Emily.

REID - On December 16th 1993 in Bowral, NSW, Australia, to Rebecca Maitland and Henry Reid, a son, Harry Lewis Napier, a brother for Hamish.

SAITO - On December 4th at the Wellington Hospital, to Betty and Masakazu Saito, a handsome son, Christopher Ryota.

VAUGHAN - On 13th December at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Janet Hutchison and Dermot Vaughan, a daughter, Sorcha Theresa Vaughan, a sister for Amelia.

VYVYAN - On 5th December, to Jane (née Lodge) and Simon, a daughter, Alexandra.

WADHAM - On 12th December, to Lucy and Justin, a daughter, India.

DEATHS

ABRAHAMS - On December 15th, Group Captain Richard (Dicky) James Abrahams O.B.E. R.A.F. (Ret'd.), formerly member of H.A.C., died peacefully at his home in Sheldwich, near Faversham. Very much loved husband, father and grandfather. His unforgettable kindness, charm and humour will always be greatly missed. Funeral Service at Charing Crematorium, near Ashford, Kent, on Monday 20th December at 1 pm. No flowers at his request but donations if desired for R.A.F. Benevolent Fund or Motor Neurone Research to be sent to Hogben and Parth Ltd., Funeral Directors, 37 Stone Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8PH.

BARRETT - Enid Kathleen, widow of Reg, beloved mother of Janet and John, devoted mother-in-law to Jenny and Clive, much loved Nannie to Emma, Lucy and Alexandra, passed peacefully away on Thursday December 16th 1993 at Little Aston Hospital, aged 78 years. Will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered always by her family and many friends. Funeral Service and Interment at St Peter's Church, Little Aston, Sutton Coldfield, on Wednesday 22nd December at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only please but donations gratefully received in aid of the Greenacres Cheshire Home c/o Ian Hazel Funerals, 5 Belvedi Lane, Sutton Coldfield, B74 4AA.

BOYLE - Lady Una, widow of Sir Dermot, on December 15th, 1993 at Wokingham. Beloved mother of Tony, Patrick and Penny and grandmother of Nikola, Adrian and Graham; Rosie, Clare and Susan. Funeral Service at Sway Parish Church (Hampshire) at 11.30am, Wednesday 22nd December. Flowers (not wreaths) to F.W. House and Sons, 33-34 St Thomas Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9NE.

CAMERON - Mary Josephine on 15th December after a short illness, Sadly missed by Lindsay, Gail and Nicole. Flowers to 3 Belgrave Place.

DEATHS

CARTWRIGHT - On December 13th 1993, Hervey Astle Sheward, son of the late Mr and Mrs John S. Cartwright and greatly loved brother of Camilla. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Farnham, Surrey, on Wednesday December 22nd at 11.30 am.

FANE - On December 15th, Henry John Fane, very dearly loved husband of Anne, father of Richard and Patrick. Private cremation, followed by Memorial Service at Duncton Parish Church at 11 am on Tuesday December 21st. No flowers, but donations if desired to Macmillan Unit King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, or Gifford House, Worthing both c/o H.D. Tribe Ltd., 130 Broadwater Road, Worthing, Sussex. BN14 8HU.

GRIGOGORIO - Nenad. On 15th December, aged 86, much loved husband of Zlata, brother of Xenia and Xanta, father of Branko, Maria and Vivian and grandfather of Lydia. Funeral Mass at 3 pm on 22nd December at Our Lady of Grace and St Edward, 247 Chiswick High Road, W4.

JONES - Peacefully on Tuesday December 14th 1993, at his home, Hendre, Springfield Road, Carmarthen, Major Francis Jones, Wales Herald Extraordinary, C.V.O., T.D., D.L., M.A., F.R.S.A., dearly beloved husband of the late Ethel, devoted father of Hugh, Rodwyned, Elizabeth and Anne, a much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service on Monday December 20th at Rehoboth Congregational Chapel, Mathry, near Fishguard at 2 pm. A Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday February 9th 1994 at St David's Cathedral at 2.30pm. Flowers and all enquiries to Oliver Evans & Son, 125 Priory Street, Carmarthen, tel: (0267) 236226.

KEELING - Gladys Mary, peacefully on 15th December, aged 97, widow of Eric, loving mother of John, Ann and Michael. Service at Worthing Crematorium on Wednesday 22nd at 2.40 pm. Flowers to Cemetery Lodge, Horsham Road, Littlehampton.

DEATHS

LEVERICK - On December 14th 1993 in hospital after a long illness borne with courage and patience, Stanley William aged 57 years, of Debach, Suffolk. Beloved husband of Anne, much loved father of Mark and Christopher and grandfather of William James and Amy Rebecca. Private cremation. Memorial Service will be held at Charsfield Parish Church, Suffolk, on Wednesday December 22nd at 2 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers if desired, may be sent to Leukaemia Research Fund c/o Co-operative Funeral Service, 10 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich IP4 1HW.

LONDON - On December 15th 1993, Lt. Cdr. Peter Hayes London, DSC, RN, rtd., Solicitor of Mullion, Cornwall. Cherished husband for 44 years of Angela (Jill), loving father of Andrew, Martin and Helen and beloved grandfather, at home after a miserable year of illness. Funeral at Ruan Minor Church on Saturday December 18th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Carawest Macmillan Nurses, 3 St Clement Vean, Tregolls Road, Truro, TR1 1RN.

NICHOLSON - John Edward Hanson on 28th October 1993 peacefully in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, aged 90. Enquiries to Haji Abdullah Bin Baba, Utusan Kinabalu Co. Sdn. Bhd., No. 3, Lorong Dewan, P.O. Box 11066, 88811 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

PASCHO - On December 6th, peacefully in hospital in Plymouth, Percival Dorion Pascho, loving husband and father.

POTTER - On December 15th, peacefully in hospital, Ronald Hugh, aged 73, Husband of Barbara and father to Catherine and Mark. Funeral at 10.30am Tuesday December 21st at Mortlake Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research.

PREVITÉ - On December 13th, peacefully, Sheila Iris Thérèse, aged 90. Beloved sister of Peter and aunt of John, Elizabeth, David, Simon and Paul. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium on Thursday December 23rd at 4 pm. No flowers by request but donations, if desired, to the Friends of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2.

DEATHS

SANCTUARY - On December 16th 1993, Maisie Toppin Sanctuary aged 88, much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral is private.

SMITH - On December 14th 1993, unexpectedly but peacefully in hospital, Cecil Hill, adored husband of Olivia (and the late Audrey), loving father of Elizabeth and proud grandfather of Adam, James and Nicholas. Funeral at Worth Crematorium at 1.30 pm Monday 20th December 1993. Flowers or donations if preferred to The Salvation Army to B.C. Baker & Son, 18-17 High Street, Caterham, Surrey. (0883) 343219.

SMITH - On 15th December 1993, Dom Gilbert, Monk of Ealing, aged 86 years. Requiem at Ealing Abbey, Wednesday December 22nd at 2.30 pm. R.I.P.

TAPSCOTT - On 15th December, Michael George, peacefully at home. Funeral, West London Crematorium, 4.15, Wednesday 22nd December and afterwards at The Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1.

VAN DER GUCHT - On December 15th, peacefully, after a stroke, Paul, aged 82, adored husband of Nell, much loved father of Anthea, Michael and Annabel, and dearest Pa to Dominic, Sam, Oliver, Charlie, Sarah, Ben, Victoria, Ella, Jack and Lizzi. Funeral to be held on Wednesday 22nd December at 2 pm at St Mary's, Lastham, nr. Alton. Family flowers only at his request, but donations if desired to the Alzheimer's Disease Society, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1T 1PH. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held in Radley College Chapel in the New Year. Date to be announced later.

WEAVER - (née Watson) on 11th December 1993, peacefully in her sleep at home with her family, after fighting gallantly for five years against cancer, Diana MacLeod, aged 62. Greatly loved by her son Rob, and friends across the world. Cremation in Whittier. Ashes to be buried half there and half in West Wycombe.

DEATHS

WELFORD - On Tuesday 14th December, Barbara Gertrude (née Ingram-Johnson), beloved wife of Derek Welford of Lake Road, Wimbledon. Funeral Service, at which all friends will be welcome, will be held at St Mary's Church, Wimbledon, at 11.30 am on Wednesday 22nd December followed by cremation at Putney Vale. Flowers may be sent to Messrs & Cotterill, tel: (081) 874-7696.

WENZEL - On December 15th peacefully in Derbyshire, Peter Henry aged 81. Beloved of his family and many friends around the world. Private funeral.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MORLEY - Margaret Gwyneth Morley. The Service will take place at All Saints Church, The Avenue, Hampton, Middx, at 11.30 am Monday 20th December. More details (0258) 430670.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

EARNSTER - Vernon. On 17th December 1986. Time passes, memories stay, loved and remembered every day. Peggie.

SAYERS - Dorothy L. 17th December 1957. Detail Content (Busman's Honeymoon). The Dorothy L. Sayers Society, Hurstpierpoint BN6 9JY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DYSON-LAURIE - Wesley & Grant regret they are unable to send Christmas cards this year to their friends and relations owing to Grant's recent illness, but thankfully she is now nearly well again and send you all their love & wishes.

BRITCALFE - Helen, for new address Call 071 377 3691(Days) 081 672 5126(Eves)

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BIRTHDAYS

GEORGINA SHELTON - Congratulations on your 18th Birthday, love Mum, Dad, Simon and James.

WALSH - VI, on this auspicious day 17 birthday wishes love to our dearest Minimum. Patrick, Diana, Georgia and the creatures.

EXCHANGES

SCANDINAVIAN cultured widow in 60's living in Rome wishes to stay in London for part of the year by sharing with a cultured lady or exchanging accommodation. 071 233 9016.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT AND SOCIAL PAGE

Over the Christmas period the following deadlines will apply:-

Notices to appear on Friday 24th December should be received in writing by 5 pm 22nd December

Notices for:

Monday 27th December
Tuesday 28th December
Wednesday 29th December

should be received in writing by 10 am on 23rd December.

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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OBITUARIES

KAKUEI TANAKA

Kakuei Tanaka, Prime Minister of Japan, 1972-74, and longtime political kingmaker, died of pneumonia yesterday aged 75. He was born on May 4, 1918.



ALTHOUGH he served as Prime Minister for only 29 months, Kakuei Tanaka became the architect of the political system that functioned in Japan for the past two decades and its dominant figure. Having been toppled from the premiership by a massive corruption scandal, he continued to exert enormous political influence through the faction he controlled and is credited with having personally chosen and brought to power at least three subsequent prime ministers.

Unlike his predecessors, who were educated in Japan's élite universities, Tanaka rose to the highest level in business and public life without the advantage of a formal education. Yet after building up a large business empire, and becoming one of the most powerful faction leaders within the then ruling Liberal Democratic Party, he emerged as Japan's youngest post-war leader when he took office in 1972 at the age of 54.

His most lasting act of statesmanship was to normalise Japan's ties with China in 1972. He was forced to resign on December 9, 1974, as a result of a scandal surrounding charges of tax evasion and the improper manipulation of his private business interests. He fell into further disgrace in 1976 when testimony to a subcommittee of the United States Senate indicated that he had received huge sums of money to secure a lucrative contract for the Lockheed Aircraft Company. After a lengthy trial in which he was one of several defendants, Tanaka was sentenced by the Tokyo District Council in October 1983 to a term of four years' imprisonment and a fine of five hundred million yen. He remained free pending an appeal to the Supreme Court, an appeal that remained unresolved at the time of his death.

Notwithstanding his fall into disgrace, the former Prime Minister showed an astonishing political resilience, both locally and nationally. He continued to be returned from his constituency in Niigata prefecture in the general elections of 1976, 1979, 1980 and 1983 with impressive and even increasing majorities, largely, it seems, because he was regarded locally as having made the Niigata area into a model of development.

In Tokyo, though from 1976 he was no longer formally a member of the Liberal Democratic Party and represented his constituency in the National Diet as an Independent, he still wielded great influence within the party. His expertly run faction continued to attract members until, by the early 1980s, it was much the largest in the party; his own role became that of kingmaker to successive prime ministers.

The key to this power was his ability to raise huge sums of money from the business sector which were then lavished on his political protégés who, in turn, ensured that the business sector donors were rewarded by legislative decisions to their liking.

In 1985, however, Tanaka suffered a stroke that left him partially paralysed and confined to a wheelchair. He left parliament five years later but lived to see the 38-year-old dominance of the Liberal Democratic Party and its factions broken in the general election of last July.

Kakuei Tanaka was born the son of a poor farmer in the then remote and backward Niigata coastal prefecture. At the age of two he contracted diphtheria and was left with a speech impediment which he managed to overcome in later years. After four years at high school Tanaka was forced to leave when his father's business failed in 1933, and he worked as a labourer with a construction company. A year later he left home for Tokyo. While studying at night he worked as a clerk and later as a reporter for a small business magazine. By the time he was 18 he had established his own modest construction company.

In 1939 he was drafted into the Army and was posted to Manchuria with a cavalry unit. After a serious illness he was transferred back to Japan and discharged in 1941. He returned to build up his construction firm and in 1942 he married Hanako Sakamoto, the daughter of a boarding-house keeper. His firm expanded rapidly during the war and in 1945 emerged as one of the leading construction combines in Japan.

Tanaka entered politics in 1946 with an unsuccessful attempt to run for the National Diet as a candidate for the now defunct Progressive Party. In 1947 he entered the Diet as a representative of the Liberal Party led by Shigeru Yoshida. In the following year he was appointed Vice-Minister for Justice at the age of 30. In 1957 he joined the Cabinet as Minister for Postal Services under the former Prime Minister, Nobusuke Kishi, and within five years he was appointed as Minister for Finance, a key post, under the former Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda. After Eisaku Sato replaced the ailing Ikeda as Prime Minister in November 1964, Tanaka stayed on at first in the finance portfolio, but in June 1965 he became Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party, a post which he was to hold for several terms in the second half of the 1960s. Combined with his already extensive ministerial experience, it was to prove an ideal base for the consolidation of his power within the party. Having also served in the early 1960s as chairman of the party's policy affairs research council, Tanaka became known as a party manager of extraordinary energy and ability.

In July 1971 he became Minister for International Trade and Industry. Shortly thereafter it became clear that the long Sato prime ministership was nearing its close. Who becomes prime minister in Japan is largely determined by bargaining between personal factions within the ruling party, and the man expected to succeed Sato was Takeo Fukuda, a powerful faction leader with an impeccable élite background. Tanaka, however, stood against him, and during a hectic round of back-stage bargaining he secured the support of the faction led by Masayoshi Ohira, appointed subsequently as the Foreign Minister. Thus in July 1972, much to the surprise of the country, a relatively young politician and former labourer emerged as Japan's new Prime Minister.

When he took office, Tanaka was extremely popular throughout the country. A gregarious and colourful man, he stood out by comparison with his cautious predecessors as an impetuous and somewhat brash leader. His outstanding capacity to remember the smallest fact or figure, coupled with a restless drive to get things done quickly, soon earned him the nickname "computerised bulldozer".

Shortly after becoming Prime Minister, Tanaka flew to Peking to establish formal diplomatic ties with China. While there, he apologised to the Prime Minister, Chou En-lai, for Japan's prewar role in China. In mending fences with Peking, an historic landmark in Japan's postwar history, he also largely defused what had been a most divisive and difficult issue within Japanese politics.

Assuming office in a year when the Japanese economy was still growing at breakneck speed, Tanaka soon made it apparent that he believed exceptionally high growth rates should and could continue. He was also heavily committed to a scheme, given the grandiose title of "remodelling the Japanese archipelago", for redistributing industry around the country with the primary aim of relieving congestion in the major cities and mopping up unemployment in the rural areas. Publicity given to this plan fuelled a land price boom which clearly served the interests of large land speculators. This was but one indication that, by the time Tanaka's business-oriented Cabinet had been in office a year, it was incapable of controlling inflation. By the middle of 1973 the Prime Minister's popularity had rapidly declined.

When the first oil crisis broke late in 1973, the initial consequences for an already inflation-ridden economy were severe. Tanaka's prestige suffered another blow when his Cabinet appeared to do little to curb industry's use of the oil crisis to raise prices of essential commodities. In January 1974 he was in further political trouble when anti-Japanese riots broke out in Indonesia and elsewhere while he was on an official Southeast Asian tour.

In October 1974 the journal *Bungei Shunju* published a long article describing alleged irregularities in his financial dealings. It was initially ignored by the Japanese press, and only reported after foreign journalists had given the article publicity. Shortly afterwards, Tanaka resigned from the prime ministership, though he maintained that he was resigning for reasons other than the corruption charges.

The "dirty money" label was to dog him for the rest of his life. On February 4, 1976, evidence was given to the Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, implicating Tanaka and other Japanese politicians in the acceptance of huge bribes from the Lockheed Corporation in its successful bid to sell TriStar airbuses to All Nippon Airways.

On July 27, 1976, the whole nation was shocked to learn that Tanaka had been arrested (though soon released) and charged with complicity in the affair. An interesting aspect of the Lockheed story was that Tanaka's successor as Prime Minister, Takeo Miki, was unwilling to allow any kind of cover-up. The subsequent trial became a *cause célèbre* and when a verdict of guilty was returned in October 1983, it seemed like the end of an era.

Many outside observers were amazed that Tanaka was able to remain politically active and influential despite the trial; but his leadership of the largest faction in the Liberal Democratic Party and his extensive network of connections throughout the political and business worlds ensured his continuing influence. He was instrumental in securing the party presidency, and thus the prime ministership, for Masayoshi Ohira (1978-80), Zenko Suzuki (1980-82) and Yasuhiro Nakasone (1982-87). None of these was a member of his own faction, a fact which caused increasing disquiet and incipient revolt within his own hitherto tightly controlled group.

Tanaka was a man of personal warmth who inspired intense loyalty and maximum efficiency from factional followers, local supporters and civil servants alike. He was a skilled machine politician, with an uncanny understanding of the dynamics of Japanese politicians. He also possessed an untiring drive for power and influence, though the means of obtaining it interested him less than the more fastidious considered proper.

He is survived by his wife Hana and a daughter Makiko who is also a member of the Diet. His first child, a son, died in 1947. In accordance with Japanese custom, he adopted his daughter's husband as his heir.

RATU SIR PENAIA GANILAU

Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, GCMG, KCVO, KBE, DSO, President of Fiji, died from leukaemia at the Walter Reed Medical Centre, Washington, on December 15 aged 75. He was born at Somosomo, Taveuni, Fiji, in 1918.

PENAIA GANILAU, who was Governor-General of Fiji from 1983 to 1987, tried courageously to resist two political coups that resulted in the ousting of the Queen as head of state and a declaration of a republican government on the island in 1987. The Queen reluctantly accepted his delayed resignation as Governor-General and Ganilau — in an attempt to re-introduce stability to Fiji — equally reluctantly undertook the presidency.

The coups were staged by the Fijian Army led by Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, an indigenous Fijian, after the Indian-led Labour Party coalition headed by Dr Timoci Bavadra, gained power for the first time in the April 1987 election. The Indian community, which had been settled in Fiji at the turn of the century to work on its sugar plantations, made up half the 750,000 population.

Penaia Ganilau was an unassuming man but a brave one who had great respect for the island's constitution. As Governor-General he refused to recognise Colonel Rabuka's administration and declared a state of emergency. In an attempt to defuse the situation he appointed a 19-member advisory council comprising Colonel Rabuka and seven of his supporters, together with members of the traditional council of chiefs and civil servants. Dr Bavadra and his party, the election winners, declined to participate on the ground that the advisory council was unconstitutional.

With the situation unresolved and racial violence increasing, Colonel Rabuka staged a second coup on September 25. Ganilau again refused to recognise the revolutionary regime but on October 1, Colonel Rabuka formally revoked the constitution and deposed the Queen as head of state. Fifteen days later, Ganilau who had refused to accept the presidency, resigned as Governor-General.

Fiji was deemed to have left the Commonwealth and the coup leaders were heavily condemned by the Commonwealth members. On December 6, in spite of his previous resistance to the coup, Ganilau reluctantly accepted the presidency in what was seen as an effort to help restore stability to the island.

The son of an hereditary chief, Ganilau went to the Provincial School on Taveuni island and the Queen Victoria School, before becoming a clerk in the Secretariat in Suva in 1937.

In 1942 he became a lieutenant in the Fiji Infantry Regiment fighting the Japanese in the Solomons. After the war he was selected for the colonial administrative service course at Oxford and became a District Officer in 1948.

In the Malayan emergency he volunteered to fight against terrorists from 1953 to 1956 when he was awarded the DSO for command of a Fiji Battalion and retired as lieutenant-colonel. He was appointed Roko Tui Cakaudrove, a traditional position, in 1956 and two years later made a member of Fiji's legislative council. He was appointed OBE in 1960. He became Minister for Fijian Affairs in 1965 and was appointed CMG in 1968.

On independence from Britain in 1970 — for which he arranged the celebrations — Ganilau was appointed CVO.

From 1973 to his elevation as only the second Fijian to be Governor-General in 1983, he was Deputy Prime Minister and was created KBE in 1974. As Colonel of the Fiji Infantry Regiment, he was created KCVO in 1982 and GCMG the following year.

He was a forward on the 1939 Fiji Rugby Tour of New Zealand and was manager of another tour of that country in 1957 and of the tour of Great Britain in 1970.

Ganilau was widely known for his large, genial presence, convivial personality and uncompromising loyalty to the British connection.

His first wife, Adi Laisa Yavaca, died suddenly: they had five sons (one of them was a representative Fiji cricketer in the team that toured England in 1982) and two daughters. His second wife, Asi Asilina Davila, died in 1984. His third wife, Veniana Bale, whom he married in 1985, survives him.



JOHN YALLOP

John Yallop, OBE, forensic scientist, died on December 7 aged 74. He was born on December 15, 1918.

JOHN YALLOP was the principal scientific witness for the defence at the trial of the Maguire Seven in 1976, which led to seven members of the Maguire family being convicted of running an IRA bomb factory in Kilburn. A man who had once served with a Ministry of Defence unit — the Royal Armaments Research and Development Establishment — Yallop had, during his time there, helped to develop a thin-layer chromatography test for detecting nitroglycerine.

The case for the prosecution rested almost entirely on the results of this test, which, it was claimed, showed that the seven defendants had all recently handled nitroglycerine. But the amount of nitroglycerine detected had been so small that it was destroyed during the test, meaning that the results could never be verified. The six weeks of the trial were largely taken up by arguments over the reliability of the test.

John Yallop, for the defence, was at pains to point out that his test had no necessary probative value and that, while it was useful to eliminate suspects, it should not be used to convict them. Other matters worried him: the absence of any trace of explosives from the Maguires' house; the fact that only one of the seven was supposed to have been wearing rubber gloves, even though nitroglycerine contamination causes severe headaches; an inconsistent result on the swabs taken from Paddy Maguire's hands; and the lack of confirmatory tests.

In turn, Sir Michael Havers, who led for the prosecution, launched a stinging attack on Yallop, accusing him of dishonesty, lack of frankness and selecting his evidence to suit his case. Against a background of careful police briefing of the tabloid press, the cross-examination had a devastating effect on Yallop and the jury. It turned the trial to the extent that, when Yallop uncovered and tried to introduce crucial documentary evidence proving the fallibility of the test, his lawyers made a feeble compromise with the prosecution, and allowed the judge to deal with the matter in his summing-up rather than put Yallop back in the witness box. The jury convicted all seven defendants, who were jailed for between five and 14 years. One died in prison still protesting his innocence.

It emerged during Sir John May's enquiry into the Maguire affair in 1990 that Yallop's original scepticism was more than justified. New experiments had proved that traces of nitroglycerine could have been innocently picked up from contaminated household items. The case went to the Court of Appeal in 1991, where the convictions were quashed as "unsafe and unsatisfactory", amid heated accusations of a judicial cover-up.

Howard John Yallop was educated at Allhallows School, then in Honiton, and University College, Oxford, where he read chemistry. He was encouraged to complete his degree on the outbreak of war, though a bureaucratic mix-up led to his spending part of his final year in the Army. On graduating, he was sent to the Armament Research Establishment. After the war he joined the Ministry of Defence, and worked on developing the British atomic bomb.

In 1957 Yallop moved to the Home Office and became a forensic scientist specialising in the criminial use of explosives. He was kept busy with safe-blowing for many years but by 1970 his main problem had become bombs. He was involved in several famous cases, including the bombings of the anarchist Angry Brigade and the explosion in 1968 at Ronan Point, the Canning Town tower block.

In 1973 he retired to Devon and set up an independent consultancy. Most of his work involved insurance companies but he also advised the defence of criminal trials such as the Guildford Four, the Maguire Seven and Judith Ward. He was appointed OBE in 1974.

Retiring fully in 1983, he devoted more time to his role as honorary curator of the Allhallows Museum in Honiton, and went back to university — Exeter this time — emerging with a doctorate. He also published half-a-dozen books, ranging from *Protection Against Terrorism* (1980) to *The History of the Honiton Lace Industry* (1987).

He leaves his wife Mary, a son and a daughter.

MARGARET LANDON

MARGARET LANDON, the author of the book *Anna and the King of Siam* which inspired the Broadway musical and film *The King and I*, died on December 4 aged 90.

She and her husband Kenneth, a Presbyterian missionary, lived in Thailand (then Siam) in the 1920s and 1930s. While working as the head of a girls' mission school, she read about Anna Leonowens, a Welsh widow who was secretary to King Monghut of Siam and governess to his children in the mid-19th century.

Margaret Landon wrote her book after returning to the United States in 1937. It became the basis for the 1946 film of the same name and for the 1951 show and 1956 film, retitled *The King and I*.

THE AMERICAN INDIAN DIFFICULTY

NEW YORK, DEC 15

General Miles has received advices that the chief Sitting Bull and his son have been killed under the following circumstances:—The Indian police today started to arrest Sitting Bull, as they had heard that he intended going to Badlands. A troop of cavalry followed the police, and upon their arrival at Sitting Bull's camp, 40 miles from Standing Rock, it was evident that arrangements had already been made for departure. The police thereupon arrested Sitting Bull, and started back with him in custody. His followers, however, rallied and attempted a rescue. A *mêlée* ensued, in the course of which Sitting Bull, his son, and several Indians, as well as five of the Indian police, were killed.

The accounts now coming in of the affray which resulted in the capture and death of Sitting Bull and his son show that the chief's followers numbered about a hundred, and it was all that the Indian police could do to keep off their assailants pending the arrival of assistance. Fortunately, a troop of United States cavalry was about three miles behind the police, and when Sitting Bull's braves attempted a rescue a courier was at once despatched to the rear to call up the mounted men. The latter hurried forward, and arrived just in time to prevent the wholesale massacre of the policemen, who had completely used up their ammunition and were at the mercy of their foes. It is feared that Sitting Bull's followers, having tasted blood, will require severe energetic treatment for some time . . .

SITTING BULL

The Indian chief, Sitting Bull, who was killed in Monday's battle, was one of the most cunning Indians who ever ruled a tribe. He will be best remembered in connexion with the great Indian rising of 1876, when for a long time he held the best troops of the United States at bay. He was not so much a fighting man as a statesman, and although he was nominally in command of the Indians when General Custer, with the finest regiment of the United States, was annihilated, it was really his fighting chief, Crazy Horses, to whom the credit of this Indian victory is due. It was the same chief, Crazy Horses, who fought General Crook on the Big Horn, and held his ground the whole livelong day, despite Crook's repeated attempts to dislodge him. Crazy Horses was bayoneted by mistake after he had surrendered. Sitting Bull, after the great war, escaped to Canada, where he lived for some time; but, being pardoned, he returned to his own hunting-grounds. Despite all the efforts of the United States authorities, Sitting Bull would never look upon the white men as other than his natural enemies. He declared that the white men were always secretly goading them into violence in order to have a pretext for shooting them down and seizing their lands. For some time he travelled in America with Colonel Cody in his Wild West Show, but, though he took a very intelligent interest in many things he saw, he remained to the last a typical Indian of the plains, untamed and untamable.

ON THIS DAY

December 17 1890

In 1885 Sitting Bull appeared in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, but later began to oppose the Government by encouraging the Sioux to refuse to sell their lands. (The "non-event" headline is worth noting).

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THE TIMES TODAY FRIDAY DECEMBER 17 1993

NEWS

IRA keeps peace hopes alive

■ Gerry Adams kept the prospect of peace in Northern Ireland alive yesterday as the IRA prepared to decide whether to accept John Major's offer of a place at the conference table in return for an end to violence.

The Sinn Fein president said his organisation needed more time to consider the Anglo-Irish declaration, while it emerged that the IRA's General Army Convention is to meet for only the second time in 25 years Pages 1, 10, 11 16

National curriculum for revision

■ The national curriculum is to be revised completely by next Easter to give schools more control over what they teach. Sir Ron Dearing, in his final report to be published early next month, will recommend that up to 20 per cent of the curriculum is made voluntary by September 1995 Pages 1, 21

Mao's sex tastes

Peking has asked the Foreign Office to try to censor a BBC2 television programme to be broadcast on Monday, detailing Chairman Mao's taste for group sex with young girls Page 1

Goodbye, bores

The days of long-winded, pompous speeches by barristers are numbered with an intiative announced by the Bar to crack down hard on poor performance in court Page 2

Oliver Reed cleared

The actor Oliver Reed was cleared of blame by the High Court for the crippling back injuries that wrecked the career of his film stand-in, Reg Prince Page 3

House prices to rise

Some property experts support a forecast that house prices will rise steeply next year. The consensus was that percentage price increases would hit double figures in London and average 7 per cent elsewhere Page 2

Farewell, Princess

The Princess of Wales began to make her farewell to the public with a visit to the Institute of Contemporary Arts in The Mall, central London. From now on she intends to lead a much more secluded life Page 3

Choice for defence

Bobby Ray Inman, likely to be the next US Defence secretary, will be the first former career officer to run the Pentagon since George Marshall Page 17

Patient escapes

A second Broadmoor patient, a mass murderer known as the Stockwell Strangler, fled from his guards while on an outing for medical treatment Page 6

Balkans warning

Helmut Kohl has made clear that a dispute with Greece over the recognition of Macedonia could overshadow the smooth running of the European Union next year Pages 14, 40-42

Vigilantes opposed

Israeli forces have received orders to crack down on Jewish settlers if they continue to resort to vigilante action against Palestinians Page 13

Language problems

Nearly half the children with serious language problems are recognised as having difficulties before they are two Page 5

Tanaka dies

Tributes and tirades flowed in roughly equal measure as Japan learnt of the death at the age of 75 of Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister Pages 16, 23

Bombers foiled

Two Irish terrorists were jailed for 25 and 23 years after they were found guilty of planning a bombing campaign that was foiled by an MI5 agent Page 5

Africa in struggle

In South Africa, political movements of right and left strove to outdo one another in celebrating the Day of the Vow Page 12

Channel 4 on the carpet

■ Channel 4 has been strongly criticised by the Broadcasting Standards Council for repeating an episode of the drama series *The Camomile Lawn* that it had censured for obscene language. It has imposed one of its toughest sanctions — requiring the broadcaster to publish a summary of its criticisms in a national newspaper Page 7



Alisa Richards, three, who is deaf, watching in delight as Father Christmas questions her in sign language in Redding, California

BUSINESS

Jobs: The Government forecast "jobs and prosperity" after figures showed unemployment falling by 36,100 and the largest three-month rise in jobs since the recession began Page 25

Blow for names: Lloyd's names suffered a blow when a High Court judge ruled that the Lloyd's of London insurance market was entitled to seize names' assets to pay off their debts Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 32.4 to close at 3311.2, a new closing high. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 81.5 to 81.6 after a rise from $1.4850 to $1.4882, but there was a slight fall from DM2.5468 to DM2.5453 Page 28

SPORT

Ice skating: Katarina Witt's first steps on the path to the Winter Olympics begin in earnest when she attempts to win the German championships Page 43

Rugby Union: "Idealistically amateur yet factually professional, ethically sporting yet persistently foul, genuinely character-forming yet slyly expedient, administratively honourable yet wantonly hypocritical." David Miller on leadership in sport Page 46

Football: A German footballer and his World Cup are not easily parted. Yet the feeling grows that 1994 will be a Latin year, particularly in light of Argentina's 2-1 defeat of Germany in Miami Page 43

FEATURES

Russia's Lord Sutch: Vladimir Bukovsky is a self-styled clown attracting a protest vote in the post-Communist world. But his antics cast a sobering light on his country Page 19

Young celebrities: Demanding parents and a still more demanding public can wreak havoc with the emotional wellbeing of young stars. Ben Macintyre on some pitfalls of fame Page 19

SPECIAL REPORT

Change in Greece: The return of Andreas Papandreou and the Socialists has caused apprehension, but they are not likely to rock the boat this time Pages 40-42

ARTS

The other Gershwin: Ira Gershwin always claimed that George was the genius of the family. Benny Green, celebrating the publication of Ira's complete lyrics, begs to differ Page 35

Year of Suede: ... and of Bjork, Belly, Cranes, Dinosaur Jnr and Nirvana. Caitlin Moran, trawling through a year's music, picks her favourite pop performers of 1993 Page 36

A new Piaf? That is how the pop industry across the Channel has decided to "sell" Patricia Kaas. The French hope that she will soon be their biggest pop sensation since Sacha Distel — and that was some time ago Page 37

PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



Andrew Large, whose board commissioned the report into the advice that wrongfully persuaded many to transfer to personal pensions
Pages 1, 25, 26



Vivien Leigh, the actress whose Oscar for her role as Scarlett O'Hara in the classic 1939 film *Gone with the Wind* has been sold for £344,000
Page 14



Andy Holligan, from Liverpool, will take on perhaps the best boxer in the world, Julio César Chávez, in Pueblo, Mexico tomorrow
Page 44

THE TIMES TOMORROW

New star over the Mersey

■ People may be continuing with the old habit of writing off the young, but they are writing themselves starring roles, Alice Thomson says in an interview with a rising Liverpudlian singer

In a French country garden

■ It was a coterie of colonists that brought the English garden to a new home on the French Riviera, says Vivian Russell in the first of *The Times* extracts from her new book

Old Masters circa 1993

■ Skilled copyists can paint your portrait in the style of the masters, reports Gillian Rowe

TV LISTINGS

Hugh Thomas and Phil Loftus are photographers who make a living by snatching pictures of the famous. Their sorties into the West End of London in search of Clint Eastwood and Jason Donovan are followed in *Snappers* (Channel 4, 8pm) Page 47

OPINION

A proper core

As we report on page one today, the curriculum to be shared by all schools should now be a rough sketch of what they should teach rather than a detailed knitting pattern Page 21

Algerian omens

The attacks on foreigners, which have led to something resembling an exodus, could deal a mortal blow to the national economy in Algeria Page 21

Small screenwarp

South Africans are about to discover the eternal verities of government in *Yes Minister* Page 21

COLUMNS

RICHARD PERLE

If Boris Yeltsin wavers, if he slows the pace of reform because the right opposes it, if he indulges the nationalist opposition's dream of re-establishing Moscow's dominion over its erstwhile empire, he will follow Mikhail Gorbachev into oblivion Page 20

BERNARD LEVIN

No minister has the courage to say that the entire idea of the welfare state was not only a chimera, but in essence the ruin of the country. It is no use just closing Bart's. No, it will have to be something really tremendous, and the answer is to hand: Close down the National Health Service Page 20

LETTERS

The consequences of drinking and driving Page 21

THE PAPERS

Even optimists do not believe that the London declaration [on Northern Ireland] will be decisive immediately, and pessimists scoff that it never will matter at all

— Los Angeles Times

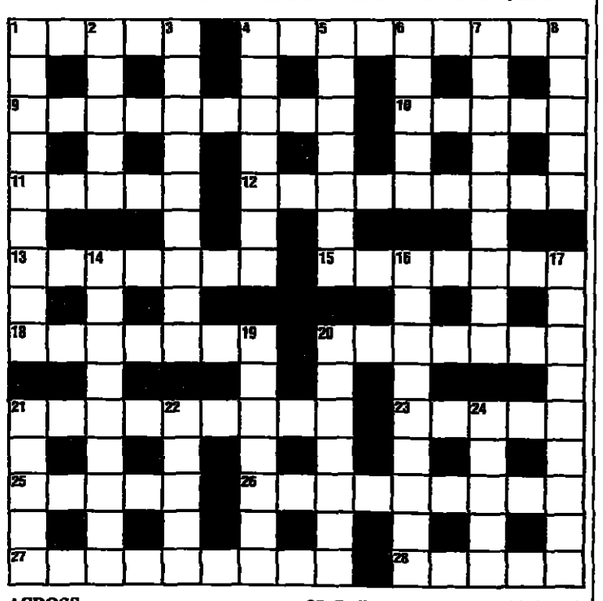
America's film industry has indeed been treated unfairly, but will continue to thrive against European art, which is to say subsidised art

— The Wall Street Journal

Russia is unlikely to pursue adventures that are typical of small countries with leaders of the same stripe as the election victors in Moscow

— El Pais

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,416



ACROSS

1 A revolutionary form of torture once (5).
4 Thrifty managment restricting American players? Hard lines (9).
9 One delayed, possibly, repairing metal core. Hard lines! (9).
10 Frill sported by companion in a Parisian street (5).
11 Parking like 9, making an impression (5).
12 Rose and fell almost disproportionately, a chap gathered (9).
13 Oriental divine involved in footballer's nuptials (7).
15 Instant-retail English wine (7).
18 Fruit he thus rejected — outside not quite ready for eating (4-3).
20 Vocalist turns treasure trove official's gold round (7).
21 Morning drink always inhibited the old championship (3-6).
23 Like all animals, but some more than others? (5).
25 Endless suave and sophisticated pops (5).
26 Discussion group move to admit German with note (9).
27 Unsystematic composition written before dinner, perhaps (9).
28 Bird carried back by detergent (5).

DOWN

1 Determination of western king to fetter hostile prisoner (4-5).
2 Divorcee takes up painting as an additional subject (5).
3 Greedy person passing his tongue over his fudge (7).
4 Arkwright's son raised food in Germany (7).
5 Fanciful dreams of shaking off a state of bondage (7).
6 A voting system one politician put together in thirty days (5).
7 Release round about half the capital for the contest (9).
8 Return and raise the white flag (5).
14 Cloak a Kentish doctor left inside after treatment? (9).
16 Horse damaged cable at edge of the Strand (9).
17 Opponents have right to limit most old people's registration (9).
19 Flamboyance of glass seen around a church (7).
20 Colour of animal carrying artist? (7).
21 Furnish with explosives, initially, before sally (5).
22 Little money for writer supported by church (5).
24 Perfect voice (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Solution to Puzzle No 19,415

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Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Northern Scotland will be very cold with snow showers, but quite a lot of sunshine. The strong wind will ease. Southern Scotland, northern and eastern England will be dry for much of the day with some rain after dark. Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Wales, the Midlands, southern England and the Channel Islands will be cloudy with rain or drizzle. Outlook: cold everywhere except the southwest of England and South Wales.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	f	Madrid	11	52	s
Alicante	17	63	s	Majorca	15	59	s
Alex'dria	20	68	c	Malaga	16	61	s
Algiers	15	59	f	Malta	17	63	s
Amst'dm	7	45	f	Melb'rne	16	61	f
Athens	17	63	f	Mexico C*	18	64	s
Bahrain	20	68	f	Miami*	23	73	c
Bangkok	30	86	s	Milan	7	45	f
Barbados*	29	84	f	Montreal*	6	43	s
Barcelona	15	59	s	Moscow	0	32	sn
Beirut	18	64	s	Munich	4	39	f
Belgrade	10	50	c	Nairobi	24	75	f
Berlin	6	43	c	Naples	15	59	c
Benmuda*	23	73	f	N Delhi	22	72	s
Biarritz	10	50	r	N York*	7	45	c
Borde'x	11	52	f	Nice	14	57	s
Brussells	7	45	c	Oslo	0	32	sn
Budapst	7	45	c	Paris	7	45	c
B Aires*	22	72	f	Peking	-2	28	s
Cairo	21	70	s	Perth	36	97	s
Cape Tn	31	88	s	Prague	5	41	f
Chicago*	7	45	c	Reykjavik	-4	25	f
Ch'church	18	61	c	Rhodes	15	59	f
Cologne	6	43	s	Rio de J	35	95	f
C'phagn	3	37	sl	Riyadh	19	66	s
Corfu	18	64	f	Rome	15	59	f
Dublin	5	41	s	Salzburg	3	37	c
Dubrovnik	15	59	f	S Frisco*	10	50	s
Faro	15	59	f	Santiago*	25	77	s
Florence	11	52	r	S Paulo*	30	86	f
Frankfurt	5	41	r	Seoul	-1	30	c
Funchal	14	57	c	Sing'por	31	88	f
Geneva	7	45	r	Stckholm	1	34	sl
Gibraltar	15	59	s	Strasb'rg	7	45	f
Helsinki	-4	25	sn	Sydney	22	72	s
Hong K	15	59	s	Tangier	15	59	f
Innsbruck	1	34	c	Tel Aviv	20	68	s
Istanbul	13	55	r	Tenerife	18	64	c
Jedaah	28	82	s	Tokyo	7	45	s
Jo'burg*	23	73	f	Toronto*	8	46	f
Karachi	28	82	c	Tunis	18	64	s
L Palmas	19	66	c	Valencia	15	59	c
La Toquet	9	48	f	Vanc'ver*	7	45	c
Lisbon	14	57	f	Venice	9	48	s
Locarno	6	43	s	Vienna	5	41	f
L Angels*	13	55	s	Warsaw	4	39	f
Luxemby	3	37	r	Wash'ton*	7	45	r
Luxor	23	73	s	Wel'ngton	17	63	f
				Zurich	4	39	f

* denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, 6C (43F). Humidity: 6pm, 80 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.01in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4.7hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1,001 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp, Guernsey, Channel Islands, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Tivington, Somerset, 0.98in, highest sunshine: Skegness, Lincolnshire, 5.8hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 7C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.18in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 2.1hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 6C (43F); min 6pm to 6am, 1C (34F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.05in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4.7hr

UK TOWNS

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.9	-	3	37	bright
Aviemore	1.9	0.09	3	37	bright
Belfast	-	0.28	6	43	sleet
Birmingham	2.9	0.40	5	41	shower
Bognor Regis	4.2	0.57	7	45	bright
Bournemouth	4.2	0.36	7	45	sunny
Bristol	2.9	0.40	-7	45	shower
Buxton	3.7	0.67	-3	37	sunny
Cardiff	1.9	0.44	7	45	hail
Clacton	4.5	0.02	6	43	sunny
Cromer	5.1	0.06	x	x	sunny
Eastbourne	1.7	0.51	7	45	bright
Edinburgh	1.9	0.16	4	39	shower
Eskdalemuir	-	0.36	3	37	sleet
Exmouth	4.0	0.54	7	45	sunny
Falmouth	3.7	0.77	8	46	shower
Follonsbee	3.2	0.43	6	43	sunny
Glasgow	-	0.39	4	39	sleet
Guernsey	1.0	0.37	9	48	gale
Hastings	3.2	0.44	7	45	bright
Hunstanton	4.6	0.16	5	41	sunny
Isle of Man	0.1	0.06	8	46	shower
Jersey	1.5	0.50	8	46	thundr
Kinloss	3.5	-	5	41	sunny
Leeds	1.4	0.55	5	41	sleet
Lerwick	-	0.13	5	41	cloudy
Littlehampton	3.8	0.56	7	45	bright
Liverpool	1.4	0.44	6	43	rain
London	4.2	0.17	7	45	bright
Lowestoft	3.5	0.04	5	41	sunny
Manchester	3.5	0.29	6	43	sunny
Margate	x	0.22	6	43	bright
Minehead	x	0.69	7	45	hail
Morecambe	0.5	0.62	7	45	rain
Newcastle	3.2	0.04	5	41	sunny
Nottingham	4.4	0.20	5	41	sunny
Penzance	2.7	0.62	9	48	gale
Plymouth	3.8	0.51	7	45	shower
Poole	5.1	0.38	8	46	sunny
Saunton Snd	1.8	0.49	9	48	cloudy
Scarborough	3.3	0.04	4	39	sunny
Scilly Isles	3.3	0.23	9	48	gale
Shanklin	3.9	0.38	7	45	hail
Southsea	4.4	0.45	7	45	sunny
Stornoway	-	0.50	6	43	shower
Swanage	3.6	0.51	7	45	bright
Teignmouth	4.7	0.52	8	46	shower
Tenby	0.8	0.41	7	45	cloudy
Three	1.8	0.10	7	45	shower
Torquay	4.3	0.46	8	46	bright
Weymouth	2.1	0.31	8	48	shower
Wick	4.3	-	5	41	sunny

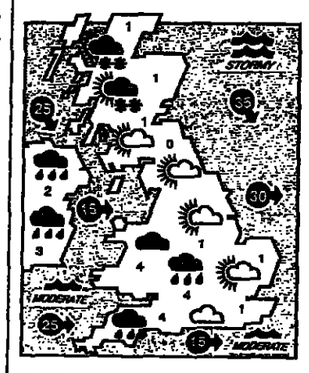
These are Wednesday's figures

TOURIST RATES

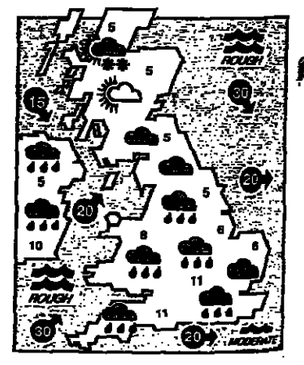
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.3250	2.1250
Austria Sch	18.85	17.85
Belgium Fr	56.17	51.77
Canada $	2.0825	1.9225
Cyprus Cyp£	0.7900	0.7400
Denmark Kr	10.57	9.770
Finland Mrk	9.29	8.460
France Fr	9.14	8.44
Germany Dm	2.6925	2.4825
Greece Dr	385.50	360.50
Hong Kong $	12.10	11.10
Ireland Pt	1.0975	1.0175
Italy Lire	2803	2448
Japan Yen	180.50	161.00
Malta	0.6200	0.5650
Netherlands Gld	2.9200	2.7650
Norway Kr	11.68	10.62
Portugal Esc	270.50	252.00
South Africa Rd	5.75	4.85
Spain Pta	217.50	203.50
Sweden Kr	13.05	12.25
Switzerland Fr	2.3100	2.1300
Turkey Lira	21390	20280
USA $	1.5800	1.4500

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 3.52 pm to 8.01 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.11 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.40 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.21 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.16 am

Sun rises: 8.01 am
Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets 8.55 pm
Moon rises 10.23 am

Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989: The hours of darkness are defined in these Regulations as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise.

YESTERDAY

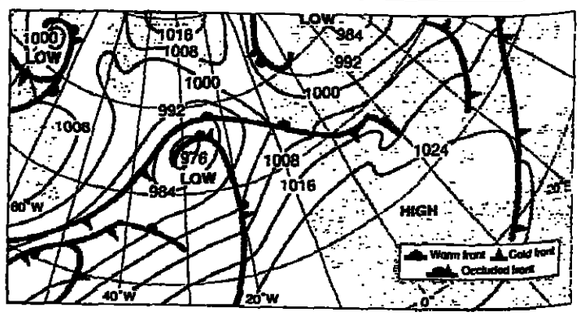
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	4	39	s	Guernsey	8	46	s
B'rmgham	7	45	s	Inverness	4	39	s
Blackpool	6	43	f	Jersey	9	48	f
Bristol	8	46	f	London	9	48	c
Cardiff	8	46	s	M'nchster	6	43	s
Edinburgh	5	41	s	Newcastle	6	43	s
Glasgow	5	41	f	R'nldsway	6	43	s

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.4	7.1	4.23	7.3	Liverpool	1.23	9.0	1.4	9.3
Aberdeen	3.45	4.1	3.41	4.2	Lowestoft			12.9	23
Avonmouth	9.39	12.9	10 0	12.3	Margate	2.8	4.8	2.44	4.7
Belfast	1.20	3.3	1.39	3.6	Milford Haven	8.39	6.9	8.58	6.4
Cardiff	9.24	11.9	9.45	11.4	Newquay	7.31	6.9	7.50	6.5
Devonport	6.8	5.4	6 31	5 0	Oban	7.57	4.0	8.5	3.8
Dover	1.7	6 6	1.30	6.3	Penzance	7.12	5.5	7.36	5.1
Falmouth	7.38	5.2	8.1	4.8	Portland	8.55	2.1	9 18	1.6
Glasgow	3.5	4.7	3.19	5.2	Portsmouth	1.34	4.8	1.44	4.6
Harwich	1.55	3.9	2.23	4.0	Shoreham	1.20	6.1	1.28	6.0
Holyhead	12.32	5.3	12.43	5.6	Hull	8.47	7.0	8.50	7.4
Ilfracombe	8.23	9.0	8.42	8.5	Southampton	1.10	4.5	1 17	4.3
King's Lynn	8.59	6.3	8.56	6.5	Swansea	8.34	9.3	8.57	8.7
Leith	5.12	5.4	5.19	5.4	Tees	6.7	5.2	6 12	5.3
					W'ton-on-Nze	1.48	4.1	2.18	4.1

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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هكذا من الأصل



INFOTECH 32, 33

The network that solves its own problems



ARTS 35-37

Patricia Kaas: the acceptable face of French pop music?



SPORT 43-48

Yorath's future remains in the balance

THE NEW YEAR CAR BOOM
Page 38

THE TIMES

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17 1993

SIB criticises 91% of pension transfers

BY SARA MCCONNELL
PERSONAL FINANCE CORRESPONDENT

■ **The Commons Treasury and Civil Service committee plans to investigate regulation of financial services, but a new statutory regime has been ruled out**

MORE than 90 per cent of people transferring from occupational pension schemes to personal pensions in the past two years may not have been given proper advice.

An investigation by KPMG Peat Marwick, the chartered accountant commissioned by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), found that out of 735 files checked, only 9 per cent showed evidence that a salesman had checked the benefits of a client's existing company pension, got details of his personal circumstances and explained the risks of a personal pension.

The remainder of the files were either "unsatisfactory" or "suspect" because they contained insufficient information or showed positive evidence of mis-selling. KPMG's investigation includes only final salary schemes and does not consider whether those encouraged to opt out of existing-employers' schemes were badly advised. It was based only on the contents of the files.

SIB has started a full investigation into what is alleged to be widespread mis-selling of personal pensions to those who stood to get better benefits by leaving their fund in a company scheme. The Commons Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee also said it was planning to investigate. But it refused to bow to Opposition demands for statutory regulation of pension transfers, saying SIB was addressing the issue.

An estimated 500,000 people have transferred a lump sum from a previous employer's scheme or opted out of their present employer's scheme into a personal pension. Last week, SIB announced that it was setting up a committee to decide how to compensate people who have lost out by being wrongly advised to come out of their company scheme. It is also planning to tighten up regulations on pension transfers.

Insurance companies and independent intermediaries could face compensation bills reaching into billions of pounds to put people back in the position they would have been in if they had not left their company scheme. The average transfer value in the 735 cases was £19,372 but the cost of putting someone back in their original position could cost substantial amounts in interest, lost contributions and lost investment returns.

The KPMG report is the first detailed analysis of what has been recognised as a problem since 1988 when personal pensions first became available. Insurance salesmen stand to get a large commission for persuading someone to transfer and take out a personal pension.

KPMG took a random sample of cases from life company direct salesmen and tied agents selling only one company's policies, from independent financial advisers regulated by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) and investment advisers regulated by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro).

Simon Walker, a partner at KPMG specialising in Financial Services Act compliance said: "The results of the study show that based on client files there is prima facie evidence of widespread compliance failure in the sale of pension transfers. The client files reviewed for the report showed that pension transfers affect people in many different occupations and industries and the problem extends well beyond the public sector.

"The evidence suggests that often advisers did not explain sufficiently clearly to clients the benefits they were giving up in transferring their pensions or the increased risk involved. In many cases, the advisers had not made adequate enquiries about the benefits, particularly early retirement options which are often a major feature of investors' pension requirements."

However, he said that lack of information recorded or solicited or other rule breaches by the salesman did not necessarily mean clients had suffered financial disadvantage.

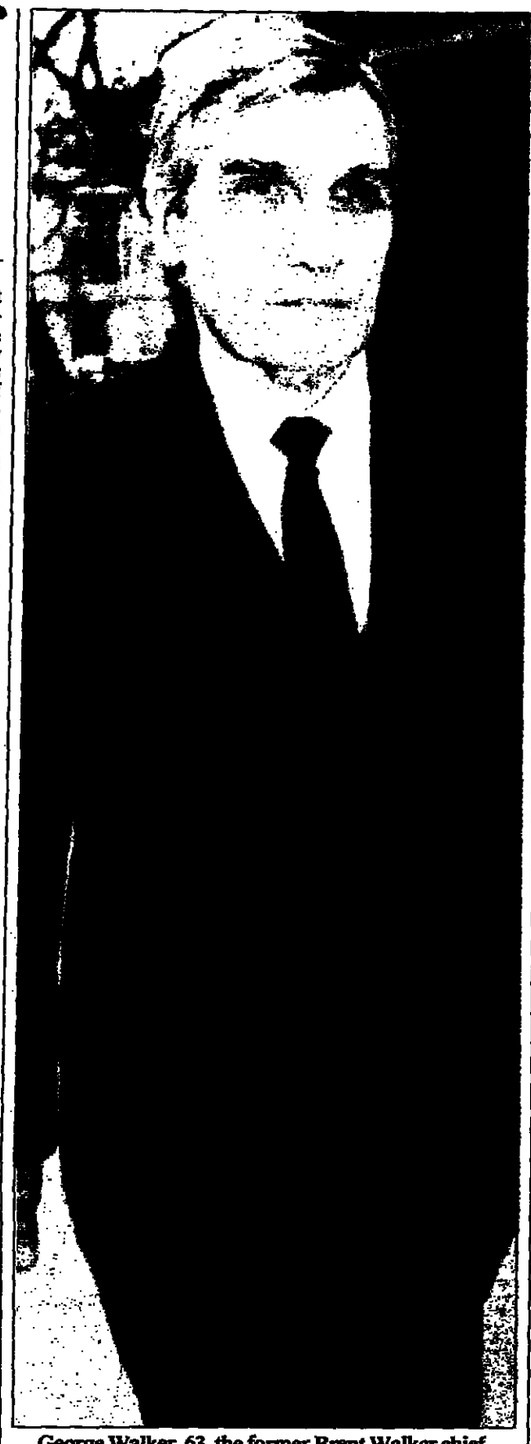
Regulations ignored, page 1
One in ten, page 26

Three who bought personal plans

☐ CASE 1: In a case where the advice was both unsatisfactory and suspect, a 61-year-old man who was still working and who planned to retire at 65 was recommended to transfer his deferred benefits to a personal pension. His attitude to risk was medium. The adviser did not obtain (or did not record on the file) information about the man's occupational scheme, which was index linked, with a spouse's pension and lump sum death benefit. The guaranteed occupational scheme pension at transfer was greater than the estimated benefits at retirement from the personal pension, even when the adviser used a rate of 13 per cent to illustrate projected growth. Under Lautro rules, advisers selling long-term policies such as pensions are only allowed to use standard growth rates set by the regulator to illustrate possible returns on investments.

☐ CASE 2: Classified as unsatisfactory. A married man with no children wanted to retire at 65. He classified himself as cautious. He was 53 and had worked for his previous employer as an engineer for 12 years. He was advised to transfer his benefits into a section 32 annuity, designed specially for transfer. The policy had certain guarantees, taking into account the client's age, and was sold on the grounds that it offered better prospects at retirement. But the adviser did not obtain details of the man's previous scheme and did not discuss or explain why he was giving the advice he did. He also failed to discuss other options with the client. Because the file did not contain enough information, it fell into the "unsatisfactory" category, but because there was no positive evidence of misselling, it was not deemed suspect.

☐ CASE 3: In one of the 9 per cent of cases passed as satisfactory, a married man with two children was advised to transfer benefits out of two previous occupatonal schemes. He was not thinking of joining his present employer's scheme, as he did not intend to stay in his job long. His priority was to increase income in retirement and he was prepared to take high risks. He did not think his pension would be high enough by staying with his present arrangement. The adviser initially recommended that the man should join his present company scheme and set up an additional voluntary contribution (AVC) to top up his contributions. In the end, he opted for a personal pension with a transfer in of deferred benefits. KPMG decided this advice was satisfactory because all options had been considered and he had been told he could stand to make losses.



George Walker, 63, the former Brent Walker chief, appeared at Southwark Court yesterday, accused of stealing £24 million from the business empire, of conspiracy to falsify accounts and of false accounting

Lloyd's entitled to seize names' assets

BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH Court judge ruled yesterday that Lloyd's of London was entitled to seize names' assets to pay off their debts. Names had been trying to block Lloyd's from issuing writs demanding that they use their personal assets to meet insurance claims.

Mr Justice Saville ruled that the assets must be made available to meet policyholders' claims.

Thousands of names have failed to pay their debts, requiring Lloyd's to set aside about £750 million in its central fund as "earmarkings" to meet claims.

To recover these unpaid losses, a mass of writs has been issued and Lloyd's has drawn down on names' deposits and reserves held at Lloyd's.

However, for one group of names, Lloyd's has exhausted all their funds held at Lloyd's, and has been forced to meet claims by drawdowns from the central fund earmarkings.

To try to recover those drawdowns, Lloyd's has issued a raft of writs demanding names pay up, using their non-Lloyd's assets.

Lloyd's welcomed the ruling, saying it hoped that all names against whom there were outstanding central fund recovery claims would review their circumstances in the light of this decision and take early steps to discharge those claims.

The ruling was made as part of the court's attempt to deal quickly and separately with legal issues common to many names. The case involved two names, one involved with the Writs Response Group and the other the Canadian Names Group.

In a separate move, Sturge, one of the biggest Lloyd's agencies, issued a writ against John Rew, chairman of the Sturge Names Action Group, alleging that he broke confidentiality rules.

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

SCROOGE



Anthony Harris takes a seasonal look at the great 1993 bull market and pulls a motto out of a party cracker for the new year
Page 28

FESTIVE SPIRIT

Yorkshire Electricity kept up the dividend bonanza for investors in utilities with a 15 per cent rise in the half-year payout
Page 27

GOOD YEAR



M&G, the largest unit trust group, pleased its shareholders as well yesterday with a 36 per cent rise in the final dividend
Page 27, Tempus 29

BAD YEAR

Turbulence continues at Owners Abroad after the Airtours bid. Now 260 managers are to lose their jobs after a review of the business
Page 27

Three-month rise in jobs is the largest since start of recession

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR



Hunt: 'message of hope'

THE Government forecast "jobs and prosperity" in the new year after figures yesterday showed unemployment falling by 36,100 and the largest three-month rise in jobs since the recession began. The new job figures are the third consecutive monthly fall in seasonally adjusted unemployment and the eighth drop this year.

David Hunt, the Employment Secretary, welcomed the fall in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit as "a Christmas message of hope for unemployed people", offering "real hope that the new year will bring jobs and prosperity". No-one, he said, could any longer deny the strength and breadth of the recovery in the UK labour market. But while also welcoming the fall, John Prescott, shadow employment secretary, said that the figures "will bring little Christmas cheer for the remaining 2.8 million people out of work, or the hundreds of thousands dreading the new year."

He forecast the fall would be quickly reversed by the impact of Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's Budget measures, while for the unions, John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said the figures "have to be set against the almost daily reports of large-scale job losses".

Seasonally adjusted unemployment fell by 36,100 in November to 2,815,900, the lowest figure since August last year and the second largest monthly fall for four years. The proportion of the workforce now unemployed is 10 per cent. The drop brings the cumulative fall in unemployment since the peak in January to 176,400. Unadjusted unemployment fell by 24,158 in November to 2,769,438.

Total unemployment and the proportion of people out of work fell in every region, with the largest monthly drop in the South-East, where unemployment went down by 12,000. At 9.9 per cent, it is now below 10 per cent for the first time since October 1990.

Government statisticians are suggesting that the downward trend in unemployment might now be running at 15,000-20,000 per month.

The number of new vacancies notified to JobCentres rose in November by 10,000 to the highest level for more than three years, while those being placed into jobs rose to 150,400 — the highest since March 1990.

New quarterly employment figures showed that the number in work in the three months to September rose by 86,000, the largest rise since June 1990, taking the total to 24.998 million.

☐ The public sector borrowing requirement was £3.1 billion in November compared with £2.69 billion in October. The latest total took the cumulative PSBR in the first eight months of the financial year to £30 billion compared with a deficit of £22 billion. The Budget Red Book predicted a PSBR for the full year of £49.8 billion.

Blurred picture, page 29

Premium Bonds to offer £1m before launch of lottery

BY LINDSAY COOK, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

NATIONAL Savings is to introduce a £1 million monthly Premium Bond prize next April, months before the National Lottery is expected to get under way.

The new jackpot, announced yesterday, is the first increase since 1980, but the weekly prizes of £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 are being scrapped at the same time.

The new £1 million prize will be funded partly from an increase in the prize fund and partly by the removal of the £250,000 monthly prize.

There will be no change to the method by which the £1,000 and smaller prizes are allocated.

The National Lottery, which is expected to attract £4 billion a year from punters, could start as early as next autumn. No details have been released yet on how large the weekly lottery prizes will be, although the company that wins the franchise is expected to have a peak-time television draw for the big prize. Smaller prizes will get an instant prize from the retailer selling the tickets.

Premium Bond buyers will, from February, have to wait less time before being entered for the monthly draws. Currently the wait is three months from purchase. It will be reduced to one clear calendar month. Bonds bought in February will be eligible for the first £1 million prize.

Sales of Premium Bonds have been at record levels in recent months, which has in turn boosted the number of smaller prizes available. Those between £50 and £5,000 number 185,000 a month at present.

The odds of winning any prize in any monthly draw will remain at 15,000 to 1 for each £1 bond.

National Savings last night withdrew the current issues of its fixed-interest products and replaced them with products offering a lower return. A new 41st issue of National Savings certificates will offer a guaranteed tax-free return of 5.4 per cent. The 7th Index-linked Issue will offer 3 per cent on top of index-linking. First Option Bonds, which are taxable, will pay 4.5 per cent net. Series H Capital Bonds will pay gross return equal to a guaranteed rate of 7.25 per cent.

The Investment Account will increase from a two-tier to a three-tier interest-rate structure. Maximum holdings in Children's Bonds will rise to £1,000 in series F plus any holding in previous issues.

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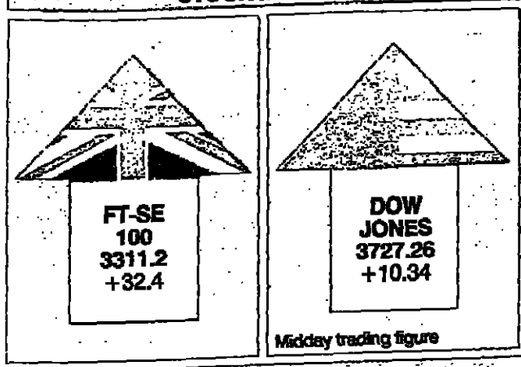
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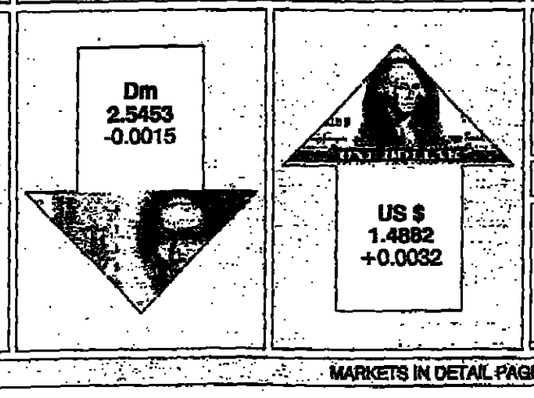
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LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 31

CBI sees promising inflation outlook

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

INFLATION pressures remain weak in the economy, with one in five manufacturers expecting to cut prices in the new year, the latest monthly industrial trends survey from the CBI says today.

The findings will give comfort to ministers following yesterday's fall in unemployment and stable inflation figures earlier in the week.

They suggest that the maintenance of inflation at its current level, or even a lower one, is likely in the first part of 1994. But what the CBI describes today as a "promising" outlook for inflation on the basis of its latest figures is coupled with a more mixed picture of the economy overall.

While manufacturers' export and order books have improved, expectations of improved output have slipped.

The CBI's December survey, taken in the first two weeks of the month among almost 1,400 companies accounting for about half the UK's manufacturing employment and exports, shows that 20 per cent of manufacturers expect to cut their prices over the next four months.

With 19 per cent still expecting to increase prices, and 59 per cent seeing no change, this net balance — those reporting a rise against those registering a fall — of -1 per cent is an improvement on November's figure of a balance of 5 per cent of companies expecting to see their prices rise.

The survey says the slide in orders is continuing, with the balance of those seeing orders as below normal improving from 23 per cent to 19 per cent now. The figure is the least poor total since August.

Export orders are reflecting a similar pattern, it says. The balance of 14 per cent of companies regarding export orders as below normal is better than the figure of 24 per cent in November.

It says the improvement in domestic and export orders is counterbalanced by a fallback in output expectations. While a balance of 9 per cent of companies still expect the volume of their output to improve over the next four months, this is down on November's figure of 12 per cent.

REPORT TO SIB ON PENSION TRANSFERS

Fewer than one in ten received acceptable pension advice

Sarah McConnell examines the findings of the KPMG enquiry into pensions advice

ALL sectors of the pensions industry are equally guilty of wrongly persuading people to transfer into a personal pensions funds built up in final salary schemes, yesterday's report into pension transfers shows. KPMG Peat Marwick's investigation of 735 customer files shows that both independent advisers and insurance company agents overwhelmingly failed to get details of clients' existing pension arrangements and explain the risks of leaving a company scheme.

The report, commissioned by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), shows that 95 per cent of client files of agents directly employed by life offices or contracted only to sell one company's products were "unsatisfactory", "suspect" or both. Bank and building society branch staff are included in this figure because they are agents for bank and building society life company arms. Of client files of independent intermediaries regulated by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) or the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), 89 per cent were unsatisfactory, suspect or both. Overall, only 66 of the 735 files inspected by KPMG showed an acceptable level of advice. Of the rest, 396 were unsatisfactory, 59 were suspect and 214 were both.

The KPMG investigators defined a "pass" file as one "which demonstrates substantial compliance with the main conduct of business requirements". An "unsatisfactory" file "lacks evidence of sufficient "know your customer" information, or of compliance with other "conduct of business requirements". A "suspect" file contains "material or evidence of actions that is at first sight either suspicious or misleading such as evidence of an apparently perverse recommendation, positive evidence of mis-selling or of playing on emotive issues, categorisation of the client as execution only or a comparison that does not match the profile of the ceding scheme benefits without evidence of explanation".

More than three quarters of brokers and agents had not obtained sufficient details of the occupational scheme from which they were advising customers to transfer. In 35 per cent of cases, advisers had not even asked when their client wanted to retire. In 44 per cent of cases, it was not clear from the file whether customers had any dependent children, or in 77 per cent of cases whether the occupational pension provided childrens' pensions. Of the files examined by KPMG, 75 per cent did not reveal whether the occupational scheme offered discretionary increases in pensions already being paid or deferred pensions for people who have not yet reached retirement. The report concedes: "Discretionary increases could be unlikely in many instances, for example where scheme benefits are already index-linked, and this could have led the adviser to ignore this point. However, it is likely that in some instances this omission will mean that a history of discretionary pension increases has been overlooked."

The vast majority of people being persuaded to transfer had not had the alternatives explained to them. In 77 per cent of cases, there was insufficient information on file to indicate that agents had analysed their recommendation.

Most of the files contained information routinely sent by trustees of occupational pension schemes to people intending to transfer benefits but even some of this is missing in about 15 per cent of cases.

In 444 cases, or 61 per cent, advisers had not asked their clients how much risk they were prepared to take. Personal pensions carry an investment risk, unlike final salary pension schemes. Independent advisers regulated by Fimbra were the worst offenders — 67 per cent had not recorded the client's attitude to risk on the file.

Overall, the investigators found that in 73 per cent of cases there was not enough information recorded on the file to tell whether the recommendation was suitable. The recommendation was judged suitable in only 13 per cent of cases and definitely not suitable in 14 per cent of cases.

Regulators have been trying to clamp down for some years on sales tactics which involve persuading people to transfer funds from company schemes to personal pensions. Since personal pensions were introduced by Sir Norman Fowler, the then social security secretary, in 1988, life insurance companies have indulged in a sales bonanza. More than 6 million personal pensions have been sold.

Pensions salespeople were warned in July last year by Lautro and Fimbra in separate guidance notes that many of them were not carrying out adequate fact-finds and were mis-selling. The KPMG report found that after regulators had issued guidance, the number of files deemed "pass" files rose from 5 per cent to 20 per cent.

Last night, John Watts MP, said the Commons Treasury and Civil Service committee, of which he is chairman, would investigate regulation of the financial services industry following the report. He said the problem of bad pension advice was "worrying".



Andrew Large, left, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, Sir Norman Fowler, top right, who introduced personal pensions in 1988, and John Watts MP

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bundesbank pegs rates but lowers M3 target

THE Bundesbank left its leading interest rates unchanged yesterday at its last council meeting of the year, but announced a slightly lower target range for its key M3 measure of money supply. The decision not to cut rates was expected and had little impact on European stock markets, which ended firm. The Dax index in Frankfurt closed up 26.75 at 2,137.45.

The Bundesbank announced a new target range for M3 of 4 per cent to 6 per cent, tighter than the 4.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent target for 1993. However, Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, emphasised that the new range was not a more restrictive policy. He said the Bundesbank would continue to assess any scope for rate cuts but caution would take priority. However, he kept open the prospect of more rate cuts. "I expect further progress on (price) stabilisation in 1994," he said. He added that he expected moderate growth in the economy to make the new M3 target easier to hit next year than it was this year. He said economic prospects were brightening but it was too early to declare the recession over.

Bowthorpe seeks £64.4m

BOWTHORPE, the electronics and electrical components group, is raising £64.4 million through a rights issue to strengthen its balance sheet as it continues to acquire specialist businesses. It is issuing one new share at 320p for every eight held, against Wednesday's closing price of 382p. Yesterday, existing shares fell 11p to 371p. Bowthorpe forecasts pre-tax profits of about £50.5 million for the year to December 31, up from £42.7 million in 1992. Shareholders are promised a final dividend of 5.03p a share, up from 4.57p, lifting the total payout to 6.91p. Tempus, page 29

Medeva board move

MEDEVA, the pharmaceuticals group, announced the appointment of Dr William Bogie as chief executive with effect from January 1, 1994, in a move designed to split the roles of chairman and chief executive. Bernard Taylor, Meveda's chairman and chief executive, said he was "delighted" by the appointment. Dr Bogie, 49, joined the group in April as director responsible for European operations. Ian Gowrie-Smith, Medeva's founder, will give up his title of managing director, but will remain as deputy chairman. His role within the group is unaffected.

Nu-Swift to go private

JACQUES Murray, the chairman of Nu-Swift, the fire protection, office cleaning and property group, confirmed yesterday that he was taking the company private in a £43.9 million deal. He owns 66 per cent of the group through European Fire Protection, and is offering to buy the remaining stake he does not already own. He is offering shareholders 398p in cash, against Wednesday's closing price of 350p, valuing the whole of the company at £147.2 million. ADT, a leading shareholder with a 22.8 per cent stake, said that it agreed with the terms of the deal.

Electra leaps ahead

ELECTRA Investment Trust, which specialises in unquoted investments, reported a 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £19 million for the year to September 30. The final dividend advanced to 3.55p (3.4p), taking the total to 7p. Net assets per share rose 22.8 per cent to 341.3p. Electra has set out its valuation principles in its annual report. Historically, shares of the trust, which specialises in supplying venture capital, have traded at a discount to net assets because the City has been unable to assess its valuation process. About 70 per cent of its portfolio is in unlisted stocks.

Reed Elsevier expands

REED Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, has continued the expansion of its European professional publishing arm with the acquisition of a 40 per cent stake in Giuffrè Editore, Italy's leading legal publisher. Giuffrè and Mori, its sister company, will complement Reed's existing legal publishing business. The two companies had sales of 102 billion lire (£43.4 million) in 1992 and publish a range of 5,000 titles and 60 journals. They have a fast-growing electronic publishing business that accounts for 12 per cent of company sales.

Hoskyns joins Emap



SIR John Hoskyns, left, will be the next chairman of EMAP, the media group. He joined the company's board as a non-executive director yesterday and will succeed Graham Ross Russell as chairman from next April, the start of the company's financial year. Sir John, who founded the company that subsequently become Hoskyns Group, is non-executive chairman of The Burton Group and a non-executive director of Clerical, Medical & General Life Assurance Society.

Harrisons trading alert

HARRISONS & Crosfield, the food-to-building-materials group, gave warning yesterday of trading difficulties in two of divisions, causing the shares to fall 5p to 199p. The disclosure about the food and agriculture division, and the plantations business, is expected to cause analysts to downgrade current-year profit forecasts. These have averaged about £105 million. Harrisons said that a "drastic fall" in pig prices in the second half had hit food and agriculture profits, and that it was looking at ways of reducing exposure to pig price volatility. Tempus, page 29

Insurer must pay after court ruling

BY JILL INSLEY

AEGON Life Assurance will have to pay between £500,000 and £1 million in compensation after the rejection by the High Court of an application that the company made for judicial review of a decision by the insurance ombudsman.

Julian Farrand, the insurance ombudsman, ordered Aegon to pay compensation in March to 23 investors who lost money in an Aegon bond managed by an insurance broker. Aegon refused to pay up, saying that the insurance broker had made promises of a guaranteed return without authority from Aegon, known as Transinternational Life when the investments were made between 1985 and 1987.

Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice McKinnon ruled that Insurance Ombudsman Bureau is not susceptible to judicial review because it does not exercise government functions and its decisions are of an "arbitrative nature in private law".

The judges expressed no view as to whether Aegon was liable to honour a guarantee given by its agent, the insurance broker. However, Lord Justice Rose, reading the judgment, said: "Even if parts of the [ombudsman's] decision letter are unhappily expressed, it does not follow that the decision itself was flawed."

Dr Farrand, who said that he was relieved at the outcome, says that he has also awarded compensation to a further 26 investors, possibly involving a further £1 million. Aegon had delayed payment to all 49 investors pending the court decision.

Peter Baines, chief executive of Aegon, said that the company will try to pay the awarded compensation to investors before Christmas. He said: "It is regrettable that the substance of the case could not be heard by the court. We reserve the right to pursue the matter with the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau through the court, but any decision to do that will not affect the investors, to whom the payment will be unconditional."

The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau was set up in 1981 to resolve complaints by customers of insurance and investment companies. It can award compensation of up to £100,000 per complaint or £20,000 a year in permanent health cases. Although the IOB's rules say that a member company should pay compensation within a month of the ombudsman's decision, it has no power to enforce awards.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

ALBION (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.09m
EPS: 20.2p (15.5p)
Div: 2.4p, mkg 4p
Profit in previous year was £773,937 and the total dividend was 3p. Turnover rose to £21.6 million, from £15.6 million

BALL (A.H.) (Int)
Pre-tax: £40,000 loss
EPS: 0.20p loss
Div: 1p (2.2p)
Interim profit last time was £407,000, with earnings of 3.48p a share. The turnover is £4.14 million, up from £2.89 million

BARCOM (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.06m
EPS: 10.9p (7.4p)
Div: 1.75p, mkg 3p
Profit in previous year was £562,000 and the total dividend was 1.25p. Turnover rose to £31.79 million, from £11.5 million

BRADSTOCK GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £7.6m (£7.43m)
EPS: 8.9p (8.5p)
Div: 3.95p, mkg 5.5p
Dividend in previous year was 5.1p. Company is buying 88 per cent of Insurex Expo-Sure for up to £2.68 million

CHILTERN RADIO (Fin)
Pre-tax: £246,000 loss
EPS: 3.4p loss
Div: Nil (nil)
Loss in previous year was £392,000 before tax and 4.6p a share. National air-time revenues up, but regional revenue patchy

MS INTL (Int)
Pre-tax: £462,000
EPS: 1.1p (0.6p)
Div: 1p (1p)
Previous interim profit was £250,000. Despite significant acquisitions, gearing is below 20 per cent

PLYSU (Int)
Pre-tax: £3.4m (£5.8m)
EPS: 4.8p (8.4p)
Div: 2p (2p)
Exceptional costs of securing new dairy contracts had short-term adverse effect on profits. UK recession still evident

INTERCARE (Fin)
Pre-tax: £4.3m (£3.62m)
EPS: 10.5p (9.5p)
Div: 2.8p, mkg 3.5p
Total dividend in previous year 2.6p. Turnover is £39 million, from £29.1 million. Roles of chairman and chief executive to be split

STEWART & WIGHT (Int)
Pre-tax: £170,064
EPS: 145.29p (155.75p)
Div: Nil (nil)
Previous interim profit was £182,813. Fall attributed to higher interest charges and lower non-rental income

SUTCLIFFE, SPEAKMAN
Pre-tax: £361,000
EPS: 0.38p (2.06p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)
Interim results. Previous loss was £560,000. Turnover fell to £10.3 million (£12.99 million), but there was a return to operating profit

WESTPORT (Int)
Pre-tax: £220,000 loss
EPS: 0.18p loss
Div: Nil (nil)
Profit last time was £111,000 with earnings of 0.09p. Operating profit from continuing business fell to £14,000 (£184,000)

VICTORIA CARPET (Int)
Pre-tax: £456,000
EPS: 4.17p (2.03p)
Div: Nil (nil)
Previous interim profit was £227,000. Turnover rose to £17.09 million from £16.37 million. Margins still under pressure.

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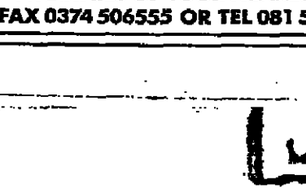
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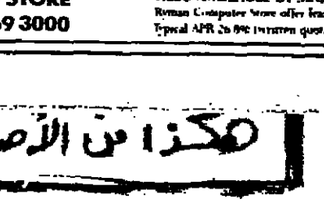
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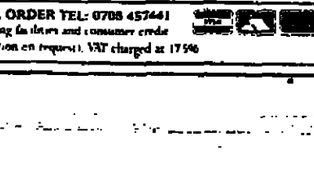
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☐ Why political mistrust is the Old Lady's best friend ☐ Time to scrap the pensions hard sell ☐ Drama on the good ship

Banking on the favourite

☐ DIANE Abbott, the down to earth left wing MP, put it succinctly. The fashionable clamour for an independent central bank, she argued, represents "a collective failure of nerve" among the British political classes: "The real attraction of an independent central bank is that it would permit the imposition of high interest rates without elected politicians having to take any responsibility." Quite so. That led her to a lone vote against her eight colleagues, whose Treasury select committee report urges that authority for deciding interest rates be transferred to the Bank of England. It is actually the main argument for doing just that.

If there is a consensus that permanent price stability is important, but politicians, along with the public and the markets, doubt their unswerving commitment to it, then it is best to saddle responsibility on to politically blinkered officials whose noses are pointed in the right direction. Not an inspiring thought, but a practical one.

The report's importance lies in its timing at the moment of maximum opportunity for change. If the Bank's own forecasts are correct, inflation should be settling at under 2 per cent when legislation became effective. That is the best time to move. Bank officials could not be asked to achieve price stability, with all the pain that brings. But they could be charged to keep inflation low once stability has been achieved. The committee's ideas might also be translated into action. Given that they enjoy cross-party support and that Nicholas Budgen, one of the committee's top enthusiasts, hit the jackpot in the ballot for private members' Bills, the Government might be persuaded to give him a fair wind.

The proposals are reasonably balanced. The "I" word is generally avoided. Rather, reform would clarify accountability. As the report explains: "Government would be responsible to Parliament for setting the targets, and the Bank would have to account to Parliament on its progress in achieving the targets and the statutory objective of price stability." A six month Treasury override would be built in and the targets would have to allow for "spare capacity in the economy and the overall stance of fiscal policy".

Merely saddling the Bank does nothing to resolve the particular dilemmas of monetary policy in Britain, however, since interest rates might be just as volatile. One is our undue reliance on short-term rates, which heavily affect millions via the mortgage system and via small business, which depends unhealthily on overdraft finance. The second is sensitivity of the exchange rate to short-term interest rates. Would the Bank effectively control an unstated exchange rate policy? If Britain does not join a unified European currency — making the argument largely irrelevant — others might well do so within a decade. That would entwine exchange and interest rates even more.

A failure of the system

☐ HERE we are again. Rarely has the mismatch between the onerous theoretical responsibilities placed on life insurance salesmen and the sober reality of how they operate been more damningly demonstrated than in KPMG's report on a sample of pension transfers. That less than one in ten of the client files



examined showed "substantial" compliance with the main conduct of business rules is damning enough. Even worse is that in three out of four cases the sellers had not even bothered to find out the details of their prospect's exsiting final salary pension scheme before persuading them to switch to a personal pension. For many, indeed, even finding out crucial details about the client, such as when they wanted to retire or whether they had any dependent children, was too much effort.

The message from this is clear. We are not dealing with the "few rotten apples" so often blamed for lapses in the controls of pension providers, life assurance companies and investment managers. This is systematic failure, not failure of individuals. The providers are to blame, rather than salesmen. They are clearly being asked to do, and assumed to be doing, what they cannot do, have not been trained to do or cannot afford to do within the structure of commissions, payments and incentives they have to live with. If the system is failing, there is no point in simply taking measures to tighten it up. The system itself needs to be reformed.

Pension providers, essentially the life assurance industry, has simply got its marketing and selling system wrong. They will need to rethink it completely if they are going to claim to provide responsibly for whole-life savings on a mass scale. The reposnible culture they think they operate is now the culture of the few rather than the industry as a whole. High pressure selling has become the norm and has spread uncontrolled from simpe, products to pensions. Marketing has to be rebuilt round expert salaried staff, whose time is costed properly and not contracted out via a commission-dominated incentive system.

Change will probabaly only come, however, once the public learns a lesson too. The Financial Services Act was not intended to protect fools but to prevent reasonable people being made fools of. To arrange something as important as a pension, people should be prepared to pay for advice, just as they would pay a lawyer or accountant when big money is at stake. As with those professionals, it will probably not come cheap.

Maelstrom in a teacup

☐ IT IS NO secret that tea ladies are kept fully employed on the upper floors of Lonrho's Cheapside HQ: reading what remains in the teacups has, however, always proved a problematic art.

A quick glance into the porcelain would suggest that Tiny Rowland and Dieter Bock are still at war, with the latter carving notches on a Luger twirled with the confidence of an 18.8 per cent shareholder who bought in at an average price of 100p, against Lonrho's current quote of 131.5p.

Then again, quick glances can be deceptive. Rowland and Bock are most certainly not the "indivisibles" — as once billed — but a relationship, of sorts, would appear to have survived: even if the rowing is somewhat erratic. Rowland's recent observation that Bock "hasn't got a clue" is, on a clear day, perceived as no more than a mis-timed stroke.

Similarly, confirmation that Bock is pressing for a change in Lonrho's articles, not least by way of the introduction of a retirement age of 65, is nothing more than a resounding splash.

Fact: Bock wants Lonrho's chairman Rene Leclèzio and co-director Sir Peter Youens (both in their 70s) to jump ship, alongside deputy chairmen Robert Dunlop and Paul Spicer (both in their mid 60s). Fact: Negotiations are under way regarding exit terms. Fact: Rowland is well aware that any change in the articles requires a 75 per cent majority vote and the AGM is not due until March. He has also insisted that any resignation — which currently requires a "unanimous" board vote — will only be acceptable at the "behest" of a director. Fact: Rowland may eventually choose to disembark but he has no intention of jumping. It always was a unique ship.

Provisions help bring Archer loss

Provisions of £300,000 towards the Lloyd's settlement offer helped AJ Archer, the Lloyd's agency, turn a £1.16 million profit into a £820,000 loss for year to September 30. The agency had already set aside £250,000.

Redundancy costs of £100,000 and one-off restructuring fees contributed to the loss, the first in the company's seven-year history.

Fee income fell sharply, although capacity, spread over 15 syndicates, was lifted by more than 40 per cent to £550 million. The final dividend is cut from 2.2p to 0.5p, making 1p (4.4p).

Matthews buys

Bernard Matthews, the poultry processor, has agreed to acquire Turners Turkeys from Unigate for approximately £18 million. In the year to March 31 the business earned operating profits of £2.8 million on turnover of £59.6 million. Net cost of the deal to Matthews will be £12.4 million because of part sale of Turner assets already agreed.

SCA paper deal

SCA, the leading Swedish forest products group, in a joint venture with Mondi, the pulp and paper arm of Minorco group, is to invest £250 million in a new paper machine to "greatly expand" SCA's newsprint production at Aylesford, Kent. Annual capacity will go up by 280,000 tons to 390,000 tons. Mondi will pay £33 million for its half of the venture. The Government is providing a grant of £20 million.

LMS dips

London Merchant Securities, the property group, suffered a fall in net rental income for the half year to September 30 from £15 million to £14.8 million due to the carrying cost of unlet developments. Profits fell from £10.9 million to £10.1 million. LMS is maintaining the interim at 0.8p.

ICD in talks

International Communication and Data, the marketing services group whose board successfully fought off an attempt by PSB Group, a private direct marketing company, to oust most of them, is now in bid talks with PSB. ICD said talks have started which may or may not lead to PSB Group or one of its associates making a general offer.

M&G surprises City with leap in profits and final dividend

BY SARAH BAGNALL

■ **Buoyant stock markets have set M&G on course for another year of strong growth, underpinning a 36 per cent increase in the dividend for 1993**

M&G, Britain's largest unit and investment trust group, caught the City by surprise yesterday with a 36 per cent rise in the final dividend and a 29 per cent boost in pre-tax profits.

Pre-tax profits advanced from £39.4 million to £50.9 million, enabling the company to increase the final dividend from 11p to 15p, making a total of 25p for the year to September 30. The shares raced ahead 33p, to reach a high of 998p, before falling back slightly to 995p.

Paddy Linaker, M&G's managing director, said the results "were up to our best expectations. The belief last year that the combination of low inflation, lower interest rates and the substantial devaluation of sterling would provide a powerful stimulus to the UK stock market has been borne out."

Buoyant stock markets coupled with shrewd investment helped funds under management jump 45 per cent to £12.5 billion, outstripping the 24 per cent rise in the stock market over the year.

The group's main businesses contributed to the growth, with the biggest improvement coming from unit trusts. The total value of M&G's unit trusts leapt from £4.1 million to £6.3 million, almost entirely due to internal growth rather than new sales. Sales of unit trusts soared from £295 million in 1992 to £541 million, rising redemptions contained net sales at £92 million, compared with net redemptions of £109 million last time.

Over the year, the value of investment trusts rose from £456 million to £662 million, again reflecting performance rather than sales, which slumped from £376 million to £9 million. Three of M&G's flagship funds, Dividend, Recovery and Second General, produced sparkling returns of 50 per cent, 52 per cent and 56 per cent respectively over the year.

Profits from the management of unit and investment trusts rose 41 per cent to £29.8 million, while profits from institutional investment clients rose 10.5 per cent to £2.1 million. A further £12.7 million of profits came from the insurance businesses, compared with £10.2 million.

Mr Linaker said: "The immediate outlook for our business remains good. A consistent philosophy, financial strength, continuity of management and independence enable us to face the challenges both at home and internationally with optimism."

Analysts are forecasting further increases in profits to £60 million this year, reflecting the management's upbeat view of the future. M&G argues that it is well placed to take advantage of the increasing globalisation of investment trends. "The group has a strong capital base and shareholders' capital and reserves have risen from £103.7 million to £147.6 million, an increase of 42 per cent," Mr Linaker said.

Over the year, the net asset value per share rose 43 per cent to 196.5p and earnings per share advanced 31 per cent to 47.8p. Earnings per share were helped by the group's decision to buy back 600,000 of its own shares for cancellation. The move cost £4.7 million and the group said it will "consider" buying back more shares when it will increase earnings per share.

Tempus, page 29

Yorkshire keeps up dividend bonanza

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

THE dividend bonanza for investors in utilities continued yesterday as Yorkshire Electricity Group gave shareholders a 15 per cent increase in interim payout after a 22 per cent rise in first-half profits. The payout is 6.9p (6p) on 27.8p earnings (14.8p).

Improved efficiency and rising demand helped the regional electricity distributor to lift pre-tax profit to £74 million in the half year to September 30, from £42.5 million. However, £22 million of the upturn relates to retiming of payments to generators under new contracts.

Turnover dipped to £587.2 million (£590.7 million), reflecting average tariff reductions of about 3.5 per cent in the supply business and transfer of three months' retailing to an associate company.

Overall units distributed rose 1.6 per cent and, after adjusting for weather effects, growth of 0.6 per cent indicates upturn in the region's economy. Demand from domestic customers grew 4 per cent, reflecting cold weather and economic upturn. The commercial side was also up 4 per cent. Demand from industry fell about 1 per cent, mainly reflecting pit closures, with demand from coal-mining said to be down by a fifth.

Malcolm Chatwin, chief executive, said that the tariff reduction represents an annual price cut of about £16 per average customer, although imposition of VAT will wipe this out. Yorkshire has some of Britain's lowest prices, he said, with customers estimated to have had a 7 per cent cut in real prices terms since privatisation.

Yorkshire said that it is on target for a 10 per cent staff cut this financial year.



Sam Newington sees new hope on the horizon

Fairline sails out of the red

BY MARTIN FLANAGAN

FAIRLINE Boats returned to profit in the year to September 30 as export markets recovered following sterling's effective devaluation on leaving the ERM last year. A pre-tax £558,000 profit replaces a loss in the previous 12 months of £507,000, on sales up 22 per cent to £33.7 million.

Fairline said it also benefited from the good reception for its new boats, such as the Phantom 37. The total dividend is held at 10.5p, but this time paid from profits rather than reserves, with a 6.925p final.

Sam Newington, chairman, said: "Overall, I think we can probably look forward to a better year in 1993/1994 and I hope we can look forward to improved margins when our new boats are in full and efficient production."

Mr Newington added that the company could not expect to remain immune from the recession in mainland Europe as 90 per cent of all exports — which in themselves comprise 90 per cent of output — went across the Channel. He said while some impact had already been experienced in Spain, France, Italy and Scandinavia, German sales were holding up well, and the Far East was significantly better.

Owners Abroad managers lose jobs

BY MARTIN FLANAGAN

A TOTAL of 260 managers are to lose their jobs at Owners Abroad, the holiday operator that this year fought off an unwelcome £290 million takeover bid from its rival, Airtours.

The move, which is the latest twist in a stormy year for the company, follows a review of the business after the recent appointment of Francis Baron as chief executive. The company said that the restructuring was to simplify the corporate structure by removing "a number of layers of management".

The group said that it hoped the move would make Owners Abroad more price-competitive, and more responsive to changes in consumer preferences. Further significant redundancies were not expected, said Owners, where Howard Klein stepped down as chairman and chief executive in July, with a warning that full-year profits were likely to be half City expectations.

At that time, when Roger Allard, the managing director, also announced his departure, Owners attracted the attention of the Takeover Panel, the City regulatory body on takeovers, because in its bid defence against Airtours, four months earlier, it had said trading was strong. Owners maintained its statements during the takeover bid — with Airtours failing to win control by just 7 per cent of the necessary acceptances — were correct.

However, Owners said after Easter that it had been hit by severe price discounting and changes in destination preferences, away from its strong areas of Greece and Cyprus towards Spain, where it was not so strong.

Owners said that during the recession people were continuing to trade down, while its holidays were on average £100 more expensive than its rivals. The Takeover Panel cleared the company subsequently of any irregularity in its bid defence.

Yesterday's closing share price — 79p, down 1p on the day — tells the story of a company that may have pulled out of the dive, but of which the City remains cautious. The price is comfortably off the 59p low in 1993, as the new management tries to get to grips with a troubled inheritance, but still well short of its 148p high this year.

Meanwhile, as Owners announced the change in its structural face, Airtours, its rejected suitor, announced that it was changing its shop face. It is renaming its Pickfords Travel, Hogg Robinson and Hourmont Travel shops under the single title "Going Places".

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Rate cut hopes send shares soaring again

STOCK lenders were doing a roaring trade again as growing hopes of an imminent cut in interest rates saw share prices soar to their highest levels.

The FT-SE 100 index, encouraged by an opening rise on Wall Street, surged back through the 3,300 level to close near its best of the day, 32.4 points higher at a record 3,311.2. A total of 922 million shares changed hands, with the figure boosted by traders anxious to square their positions before the expiry of the December futures later today.

Prices enjoyed an early mark-up, cheered by more positive economic news that followed hard on the heels of Wednesday's better than expected inflation figures. This enabled the equity market to shrug off any disappointment felt by the decision of the Bundesbank to peg German rates at current levels.

But market-makers short of stock continued to feel the squeeze, with an absence of sellers resulting in most of the business being conducted one-way. Many of them have been forced to turn to stock lenders among the institutions to cover short positions, an expensive way of conducting business.

Confidence generally remains high, with many City investors still anticipating an early cut of half a point in bank base rates.

Double-figure gains were recorded among many blue chips, with the water and electricity utilities also being

STOCK MARKET

chased higher on yield considerations. **Rothmans International** surged 21p to 459p, **Anglian Water** 15p to 603p, **Northumbrian Water** 31p to 750p, **Eastern Electricity** 14p to 670p, and **East Midland Electricity** 16p to 659p.

Reed Elsevier was a firm market, with the price rising 22p to 827p after several buy recommendations.

Moving against the trend, **Arjo Wiggins Appleton** fell 23p to 226p after it was learnt that Gordon Bond had resigned from the board.

National Westminster Bank fell 16p at 581p after BZW cut its profit forecast for the current year from £1 billion to £950 million and for 1994 from £1.53 billion to £1.40 billion. **LGW** firmed 4p to 160p on confirmation of a bid approach from Hoskins Brewery.

The life insurance companies were marked lower on the back of a critical report about insurance policies. **Britannic** dropped 9p to 433p, **Lloyds Abbey** 19p to 412p, **London and Manchester** 16p to 364p, **Prudential** 9p to 345p, and **Refuge Group** 4p to 331p.

Abbeycrest, the jewellery group, fell 4p to 79p after it was announced that Chris Dear, a director, was leaving and would be selling his entire 23.5 per cent holding. The shares will be placed in the market by Panmure Gordon.

Intercare rose 7p to 143p after Peter Cowan said he was splitting his roles of chairman and chief executive. Pre-tax profits last year grew 19 per cent to £4.31 million.

Dorling Kindersley, the publisher of educational books, rallied 8p to 229p after Wednesday's profits warning. Peter Kindersley, the chairman, has taken advantage of the weakness in the share price to pick up an extra 50,000 shares at 230p for a total cost of £115,000.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** gilts drew strength from the latest economic indicators, with the March series of the Long Gilt future breaching its resistance level of £119¼. It touched £119½ before finishing £7/16 better at £119³/₈ as 51,000 contracts were completed.

The longer end outperformed shorts again, with Treasury 9 per cent 2012 rising £15/32 to £127⁷/32, while Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 was a tick firmer at £115²⁹/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares traded higher into midday as the market continued to bounce back from the downside of the past two days. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 10.34 points to 3,727.26. Advancing shares led declining issues by about 11 to eight.

MICHAEL CLARK



ANTHONY HARRIS

Scrooge looks at the great bull market

Here is an idea for the gift trade, offered, in the Christmas spirit, without charge: a lavish box of crackers containing not jokes but slogans designed to sustain the party spirit among investors, who might otherwise find that their celebrations were spoilt by fits of vertigo.

"The market is always right" was the favourite of my first broker — an idea later tricked out in scientific terms as the Efficient Market Theorem. A more cumbersome version came up at an investment committee meeting this week: "Equities will always yield more than bonds, because investors require a risk premium, and price shares accordingly." Not much of a belly laugh in that, perhaps; though it is, if you analyse it, a kind of joke. Perhaps one should also include a cracker with a devil mask, and the slogan: "The market is going up because it is going up."

The plain fact is that this is a perfectly normal money-driven market in its terminal, all-news-is-good-news phase. The momentum of money can still drive prices up a good deal further — especially the innocent money that is piling into US mutual funds and British unit trusts on a scale never seen before. But if you think the rise is rational, simply adjusting expected equity yields in line with falling bond yields, consider the "good news", which is supposed to provide a rational underpinning. Falling inflation, which is now the old story; fiercely deflationary budgets, which are supposed to reduce borrowing; and now the Gatt.

Falling inflation is no doubt welcome in its own right; but it does also put a question mark over the accustomed yield relationships. Bonds have for some decade yielded more than shares — the "reverse yield gap" — because of the risk to bondholders from inflation. If that risk is now thought to have been removed, the risk premium ought in reason to go the other way, restoring the once-normal excess of dividend yields over bond income. Indeed, I know some brokers who expect this re-reversal, and in the reasonably near future.

Contrary to current asset-pricing theory, it is not natural for equities and bonds to march in lock-step, as they are doing at present. In effect, the bond markets are saying that low inflation is here to stay, and the equity markets that inflation will return. They can't both be right. Nor is it true that all news is good news. On the contrary, if we define news as what is unexpected, the inflation news has been consistently good, as falls in inflation repeatedly surpass expectations: but the profit news comes mainly in the form of endless warnings, two or three a day, of disappointing achievements. They are all shrugged off.

The reason appears in every warning: competition is intense and sales disappointing. In other words, the forces that are driving inflation down, and bonds up, are also driving profits down. British equity analysts, unlike their Wall Street counterparts, are too gullible or too sales-oriented to read the tea leaves. Wall Street marks time, while the London market responds to the bond boom rather than to the profit flows it is meant to be pricing. There is a fall-back defence for London: British dividend yields are being driven down from their traditional premium to a normal level. If that is the story your broker is telling you, stick to him. If he relies on fanciful profit projections, try a second opinion.

Ah, but there is that Budget; reduced borrowing must surely help all securities to rise. Up to a point, as Lord Copper's minions liked to put it. It's a bit like the Kipling poem: if you believe that growth will not be checked by fierce deflation, so that revenue will be sustained; and if you believe that public sector pay can be brought to a standstill for three years; then you'll be a bull. But if you remember that it was recession that caused the rise in borrowing, and if you think that taking £18 billion out of taxpayers' pockets is likely to reduce their spending, you'll have your doubts.

And Gatt? Isn't that supposed to open our markets to cheaper markets? That is good for inflation and for bonds. But is it also supposed to improve profits? How? Bah! Humbug!

Unions seek control of United Airlines

BY PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THE board of UAL, parent company of United Airlines, was yesterday considering a $5.5 billion buyout plan from two of its three major unions, which would give employees control of the carrier.

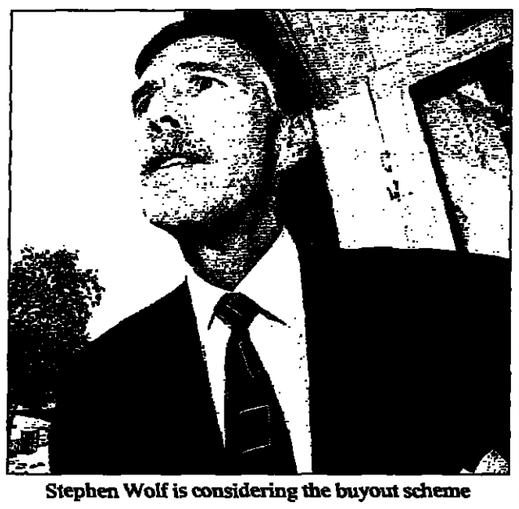
United's engineers and the pilots have offered wage and working concessions which they value at $173 a share and would give them between 53 and 63 per cent of United shares. If successful, it would be the largest employee-owned company in the US.

The current buyout proposal is the sixth since 1987. The third, which involved British Airways subscribing for shares, collapsed in 1989 and triggered the mini stock market crash of that year.

Gerald Greenwald, a former Chrysler director and ex-Olympia & York executive, is leading the union side. He would become United's new chief executive on completion of the deal.

At $173 per United share, the deal is 3 per cent above a union offer which was recently rejected by the board, headed by Stephen Wolf, and 11 per cent higher than United's shares at any point this year. Key clauses of the proposal include an immediate 17.5 per cent pay cut by the pilots, a 9.6 per cent cut by the engineers and forfeit of a 5 per cent rise due in May; and a new no-frills airline called U-2 for which United pilots would fly for 20 per cent less.

United shareholders would get new shares worth $85 and $88 worth of cash debt and new preference shares. The board will meet on Monday.



Stephen Wolf is considering the buyout scheme

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

THE POUND

US $	1.4882 (+0.0032)
German mark	2.5453 (-0.0015)
Exchange index	81.6 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3311.2 (+32.4)
Dow Jones	3727.26 (+10.34)*
Nikkei Avg	17789.28 (+300.13)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	5½%
3-month Interbank	5⅞-5¾%
US Federal Funds	3%*
3-month Treas Bills	3.03-3.02%*
Long Bond	6.29%*

CURRENCIES

New York:	London:
£:$ 1.4890*	£:$ 1.4895
$:DM 1.7085*	£:DM 2.5425
$:SwFr 1.4590*	£:SwFr 2.1724
$:Fr 5.8370*	£:Fr 8.6899
$:Yen 109.74*	£:Yen 163.47
£:SDR 1.0747	£:ECU 1.3186

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 386.50 PM 386.10
Close 385.90-386.40
New York:
Comex 386.15-386.65*

OIL

Brent Crude $13.75 per bbl (Feb)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 141.6 Nov (1.4%) Jan 1987=100

* Denotes midday trading price

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

HSBC	852p (+21p)
Fairline Boats	298p (+16p)
Blick	470p (+17p)
Highland Distl	356p (+19p)
LWT Hldgs	602p (+20p)
Manders	350p (+14p)
RMC Group	945p (+15p)
Reed Int	827p (+22p)
Rugby Group	333p (+18p)
Inchcape	561p (+17p)
ICI	760p (+14p)
Wolseley	864p (+31p)
Swire Pacific 'A'	528p (+24p)
VSEL	825p (+15p)

FALLS:

Arjo Wiggins	226p (-23p)
Nat West	581p (-16p)
Compco	285p (-15p)
Legal & General	505p (-18p)
Lloyds Abbey	412p (-19p)

Closing Prices Page 31

RECENT ISSUES

Abrust (Lloyds Insce) (100)	93	...	Johnson Fry Zero Pf (100)	105½	+1	Ruberoid (150)	173	+4
Amicable Smlr Ent (100)	101	...	Kleinwrt 2nd End Pol (50)	52½	+½	Syndicate Capital (100)	95	...
Azlan (230)	264	...	Liliput (135)	120	...	Syndicate Capital Wts	36	...
Badgerline (115)	110	+1	Litho Supplies (190)	214	+4	Telspec (160)	201	-2
Biotrace Intl (130)	150	...	London Industrial (320)	336	...	Wigmore Property Inv (100)	99	...
CLM Insce (100)	103	...	Masthead Insce (100)	108	...			
Celltech (250)	225	+2	Mercury World Mng (100)	100½	+3	RIGHTS ISSUES		
DPS Furniture (260)	304	+2	Mercury World Mng Wts	42½	...			
Fairbairn Euro Smlr (100)	98	...	Morgan Gren Eqty C (100)	104	+½	Banner Homes n/p (89)	28	...
Fenchurch (180)	169	...	NM Smllr Aust (100)	100	...	Dwyer A n/p (50)	3	-1
Finsbury Undrwrtng Inv	108	+½	NM Smllr Wts	45	...	Greycoat n/p (12½)	3¼	+½
For & Col Smaller (100)	100½	...	Nelson Hurst (140)	143	...	NPC n/p (195)	29	+3
Gartmore (168)	188	+2	New London Capital (100)	97	...	Serif n/p (11)	7½	...
Govett High Inc (100)	109	...	On Demand Info (78)	108	-1	Tay Homes n/p (145)	20	...
Harmony Leisure Wts	4½	...	Pilot Inv C (100)	100	...	Wyevale Garden n/p (152)	19	...
Hozelock (250)	249	...	Premium Trust	94	...			
Inspirations (100)	110	-1	Premium Undrwrtng	121	-1			
Johnson Fry Utils (100)	112	+2	Royal Doulton	225	+1			

WALL STREET

	Dec 16 midday	Dec 15 close
AMP Inc	60¾	60¾
AMR Corp	67⅞	68⅜
Abbott Labs	28¾	28⅝
Aetna Life	59⅝	59⅝
Ahmanson (H F)	19⅜	19⅜
Air Prod & Chem	44⅞	45⅜
Albertson's	26¼	25⅞
Alcan Aluminm	21⅛	21¼
Alco Standard	53	52⅞
Allied Signal	75⅛	75⅜
Alum Co of Am	70⅞	70⅝
Amax Gold Inc	6⅜	6⅜
Amerada Hess	43¾	43¾
Amer Brands	33⅞	33⅞
Amer Cyanamid	50⅝	50⅝
Amer El Power	36⅜	36⅜
Amer Express	30⅜	30⅜
Amer Genl Corp	27⅞	27⅞
Amer Home Pr	62⅝	62⅝
Amer Intl	87⅞	88⅛
Amer Stores	42	42
Amer T & T	54½	55
Amoskeag	7¾	7¾
Amoco	51⅛	51½
Anheuser-Busch	48⅜	48⅝
Apple Computer	29⅞	29⅞
Archer Daniels	23⅜	23⅜
Arkla	7¾	7¾
Armco	6	6
Armstrong Wrld	49	48⅞
Asarco	21½	21⅜
Ashland Oil	31⅝	32⅛
Atl Richfield	101¼	102⅛
Autm Data Pro	54⅝	55⅛
Avery Dennison	29⅜	29⅜
Avon Products	48⅝	48⅝
Baker Hughes	25⅛	25⅛
Baldin Gas & El	25⅝	25⅝
Banc One	38	37⅞
BankAmerica	45⅝	46
Bankt of NY	59¼	59⅝
Banker Tr NY	77⅛	77⅜
Barnett Banks	41⅛	40⅞
Bausch & Lomb	51⅝	51⅛
Baxter Intl	23	23
Bear Stearns	35⅜	35⅜
Bell Atlantic	60⅝	60⅝
BellSouth	57⅜	57⅛
Black & Decker	19⅝	19⅝
Block (HR)	41¼	41⅛
Boeing	43⅝	42⅝
Boise Cascade	23⅜	23
Borden Inc	18⅜	18⅜
Bristol Myrs Sq	58⅜	58⅜
Browning Ferris	26⅜	26⅜
Burlington Nthn	86⅞	87⅛
CBS	298½	297⅞
CNA Financial	78⅜	78⅛
CPC Intl	46⅛	46
CSX	85⅞	86⅛
Campbell Soup	41⅝	41⅞
Can Pacific	16⅛	16⅛
Cpnl Cities ABC	637⅛	637⅛
Cpnl Holdings	38⅛	38⅝
Carolina Pwr	29⅜	29⅜
Caterpillar	86¼	85⅞
Central & SW	30⅜	30⅜
Champion Intl	32⅜	32⅜
Chase Manhat	33⅜	33⅛
Chemical Bk	39⅜	38⅞
Chevron Corp	94	94⅜
Chrysler	54⅛	54⅛
Chubb Corp	77½	77½
Cigna Corp	92⅜	92
Cincorp	35⅜	34⅞
Clorox	52⅛	52⅝
Coastal Corp	27⅛	27⅜
Coca Cola	43⅞	43⅞
Colgate-Palmolive	61½	60⅝
Columbia Gas	23⅝	23⅝
Commonw Ed	29	28⅝
Compaq Comp	72⅝	72
Comp Ass Int	40⅜	39⅞
Conagra	25⅜	25⅜
Cons Edison	31½	31⅝
Cons Nat Gas	43⅜	43⅞
Cons Rail	63⅜	64⅛
Cooper Inds	48⅜	48⅞
Corning Inc	39⅜	39⅝
Crown Cork	39⅝	39⅝
Dana Corp	54⅜	55⅜
Dayton Hudson	69⅜	69⅜
Deere	71	71¼
Delta Air Lines	57	57
Deluxe Corp	35⅜	35⅞
Detroit Edison	31½	31¼
Digital Equip	35⅜	35½
Dillard Dept St	37⅜	36¾
Disney (Walt)	42⅛	42⅝
Dominion Res	45⅜	45
Donelley [RR]	30⅜	30
Dover Corp	60⅜	61⅛
Dow Chemical	59⅜	59¼
Dow Jones	35⅜	36⅛
Dresser	20⅜	20⅜
Duke Power	41⅞	41⅛
Dun & Bradstreet	62⅜	62¼
Du Pont	49¼	49¼
Eastman Kodak	54⅜	55⅜
Eaton Corp	49⅜	50¼
Emerson Elec	59	58⅞
Engelhard Corp	23⅝	24⅛
Enron Corp	39⅜	39⅞
Entergy Corp	35⅛	35¼
Ethyl Corp	18⅛	18⅛
Exxon	63⅝	63¾
FMC Corp	45⅜	46
FPL Group	38⅜	38¼
Federal Express	69	69⅜
Fed Nat Mtge	76⅜	76¼
First Chicago	42¼	41⅞
First Interstate	64¼	65⅛
First Union Rlty	10⅛	10¼
Fleet Fincl Grp	32⅝	31⅝
Fluor Corp	40¼	40
Ford Motor	63⅜	62⅞
GTE Corp	35⅞	35⅝
Gannett	55⅞	54⅞
Gap Inc Del	30⅞	30⅝
Gen Dynamics	93⅜	93⅜
Gen Electric	102⅝	103⅜
Gen Mills	60⅜	60¼
Gen Motors	54¼	54⅜
Gen Reinsurance	108½	108
Gen Signal	35	34⅝
Genuine Parts	36⅜	36⅜
Georgia Pac	71⅛	71⅛
Gillette	59	58⅞
Glaxo ADR	20⅝	20⅝
Goodrich (BF)	41⅛	41⅛
Goodyear Tire	44⅜	44
Grace (WR)	39⅝	39⅝
Grt Atl Pac Tea	28⅜	28⅜
Great Wstn Fin	18⅛	19⅛
Halliburton	30⅞	30⅝
Harcourt General	35⅜	36⅛
Helelec (EI)	36⅞	35⅝
Hercules	111⅛	110⅛
Hershey Foods	50⅛	50⅜
Hewlett Packard	77⅛	76⅞
Hilton Hotels	54⅛	54⅛
Home Depot	40	39⅝
Homestake Mng	22⅝	22⅜
Honeywell	33⅝	33⅝
Household Intl	31⅛	30⅝
Houston Inds	47⅞	46⅛
Humana	17⅞	18⅛
ITT Corp	92⅛	92¼
Illinois Tool	57	57
INCO	26½	25⅝
Ingersoll Rand	36½	37¼
Inland Steel	33	33⅜
Intel Corp	59⅞	59
IBM	57⅜	56⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	110⅛	110⅛
Intl Paper	66⅛	66⅝
James River Va	18⅛	18⅛
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	42⅝	43⅛
K Mart	22	22
Kellogg	60	60
Kerr-McGee	64⅜	64⅜
Kimberly-Clark	50⅛	50
Knight-Ridder	58⅜	58⅜
Lilly (Eli)	56⅛	57
Limited Inc	16⅝	17
Lin Bnkcorp	111½	111
Lincoln Nat	42⅝	42⅞
Linton	66	66
Liz Claiborne	21¼	21¼
Lockheed Corp	67⅜	68⅛
Louisiana Pac	37⅞	37⅝
MCI Commun	25⅜	25⅜
Marriott Int	27⅞	27⅞
Marsh & McLen	79⅛	78⅜
Masco Corp	37⅛	36⅝
May Dept St	42	42⅛
Maytag Corp	17⅞	17⅞
McCaw Cellular	51¼	51¼
McDonalds	57⅛	57⅝
McDonnell D	110	109½
McGraw Hill	66⅛	66⅛
Mead Corp	44	44⅛
Medtronic	80⅜	79⅝
Mellon Bk	52⅛	52⅝
Melville Corp	40	39⅝
Merck Inc	33⅜	33⅝
Merrill Lynch	46⅛	46⅛
Minnesota Mine	112⅛	111¼
Mobil Corp	74⅛	74½
Monsanto	72⅛	72⅛
Morgan (JP)	71½	70⅝
Motorola Inc	88⅛	89⅜
Nat Medical	13⅜	13⅝
Nat Semi	15⅛	15⅛
Nat Service Ind	24⅛	24⅛
Navistar Int	22⅝	22⅝
NBD Bancorp	30⅜	30⅛
NY Times A	26¼	26⅛
Newmont Mng	56⅛	56⅛
Nlsg Mohawk	32⅞	32⅞
Nike B	45⅞	46
NL Industries	9⅛	9⅛
Nordstrom	33⅝	32⅝
Norfolk Sthrn	71⅛	71⅛
Nthn State Pwr	43⅜	43
Norwest Corp	23⅞	23⅞
Nynex Corp	41¼	41⅛
Occidental Pet	17⅞	17⅞
Ogden Corp	22⅜	22⅜
Oracle Systems	34⅛	34⅛
Oryx Energy Co	16⅛	16⅛
Owens Corning	47	47⅛
PNC Financial	29⅞	29
PPG Industries	74⅛	74
Pacific Inc	99⅛	99⅛
Pacificorp	19⅞	19⅞
Pac Enterprises	25⅝	25⅝
Pac Gas & Elect	33⅛	33⅜
Pac Telesis	35⅜	35½
Pall Corp	18⅜	18⅜
Panhandle East	22⅜	22⅜
Paramount Comm	31	31
Parker Hannifin	36	35⅞
Penney (JC)	53⅜	53⅝
Pennzoil	53⅞	53⅞
Pepsico	40⅞	40⅞
Pfizer	65	65
Phelps Dodge	49⅝	49⅝
Philadel Elec	28⅜	28⅜
Philip Morris	54⅛	54⅛
Phillips Pet	27⅞	27⅞
Pitney Bowes	41⅛	41⅛
Polaroid	34⅝	34⅝
PriceCostco	19⅜	19⅜
Primerica	39⅜	39⅜
Procter & Gmbl	55⅞	55⅞
Pub Serv E & G	31⅛	31⅛
Quaker Oats	72⅜	72⅜
Ralston Purina	37⅞	37⅞
Raytheon Corp	36⅜	36⅜
Raytheon	68⅛	68⅛
Reebok Intl	28	28⅛
Reynolds Metals	45⅞	45⅞
Roadway Svces	61⅛	61¼
Rockwell Intl	36⅜	36⅜
Rohm & Haas	38⅜	38⅜
Royal Dutch	102⅜	102⅜
Rubbermaid	32⅞	32⅞
Safeco Corp	56	55⅞
St Paul's Cos	89⅜	89⅜
Salomon Inc	46⅛	46⅛
Santa Fe Pac	21⅛	21⅛
Sara Lee Corp	26⅞	26⅞
Scecorp	21	21
Schering Plough	63⅝	63⅝
Schlumberger	58⅜	58⅜
Scott Paper	39⅜	39⅜
Seagram	26⅛	26⅛
Sears Roebuck	55⅛	55⅛
Shell Trans	62⅛	61⅞
Sherwin Wllms	34	33⅞
Skyline Corp	18⅛	17⅞
Snap-On-Tools	38	37⅝
Southern Co	44	43⅞
Southwestern Bell	42⅛	41⅞
Sprint Corp	32⅝	32⅝
Stanley Works	41⅛	41
Sun Company	30⅛	29⅝
Suntrust	44⅝	44⅛
Supervalu	34⅞	34⅝
Synnex Corp	15⅝	15⅝
Sysco Corp	29⅝	30
T&W Inc	65⅝	65⅝
Tandem Comp	10⅞	10⅞
Tandy Corp	46⅞	46
Telecom Corp	2⅝	3
Teledyne	20⅞	20⅞
Temple Inland	49⅜	48⅞
Tenneco	49⅝	49⅝
Texaco	62⅝	62⅝
Texas Instr	68⅛	67⅞
Texas Utilities	42⅝	42⅝
Textron	56⅛	56⅛
Time Warner	44	43⅞
Times-Mirror	34⅛	33⅞
Timken	33⅜	33⅜
Torchmark	44⅛	43⅞
Toys R Us	40⅜	39⅝
Transamerica	37	37⅛
Travelers Corp	32	31½
Tribune	57⅛	56⅝
Tyco Labs	47⅞	47⅞
UAL Corp	146	148½
USF Inc	26⅜	26⅛
USX-Marathon	17⅝	17⅝
Unilever NV	114⅛	113⅜
Union Camp	47⅛	47⅛
Union Carbide	22⅛	21⅞
Union Pacific	60⅛	60⅝
Unisys Corp	12⅛	12
USAIR Group	13	13⅛
USF&G Corp	12⅛	12⅛
US Life	36⅝	37
US West	49	48⅞
United Tech	61⅛	61½
Unocal Corp	26	26⅛
Upjohn	30	30⅛
VF Corp	44⅝	45
Wang Tech	27⅛	27⅛
Wal-Mart Stores	27⅞	27⅞
Warner-Lambert	64⅛	64⅜
Wells Fargo	124½	122⅞
Westinghouse El	13⅝	13⅝
Weyerhaeuser	42⅝	42⅝
Whirlpool	61⅛	59⅞
Whittman	16⅛	16
Winn Dixie	54	53⅞
Woolworth	23⅛	23⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	68⅛	68⅛
Xerox	88⅛	88⅛

FT-SE VOLUMES

ASDA Gp	19,000	Cadbury	2,000	MEPC	1,400	Scot Power	3,700
Abbey Natl	2,300	Carndon	2,700	Marks Spr	5,300	Sears	2,900
Alld-Lyons	1,500	Carlton Cm	1,400	NFC	2,700	Svrn Trent	1,400
Anglian W	864	Coats Vyla	1,300	NatWst Bk	4,100	Shell Trans	5,700
Argyll Gp	6,700	Cm Union	2,600	Nat Power	4,000	Slebe	1,700
Arjo Wiggn	10,000	Courtaulds	2,800	Nth Wst W	1,000	SmKl Bch	12,000
AB Foods	314	Enterpr Oil	733	Nthrn Fds	3,900	Smith Nph	2,200
BAA	733	Forte	1,800	P & O	2,100	Southern Elec	664
BAT Inds	4,500	GRE	1,000	Pearson	1,400	Std Chartd	2,600
BOC	815	GUS	2,300	PowerGen	2,900	Sun Allnce	3,800
BP	25,000	Gen Acc	978	Prudential	9,800	TI Gp	1,400
BT	6,700	Gen Elec	7,000	RMC	440	TSB	8,600
BTR	9,900	Glaxo	10,000	RTZ	2,200	Tesco	14,000
Bk of Scot	3,100	Granada	3,000	Rank Org	921	Thames W	1,400
Barclays	4,200	Grand Met	3,400	Reckitt Col	1,200	Thrn EMI	1,800
Bass	2,500	Guinness	4,700	Redland	821	Tomkins	2,500
Blue Circle	2,300	HSBC	3,200	Reed Intl	949	Unilever	773
Boots	2,100	Hanson	8,100	Rentokil	1,600	Utd Biscs	2,700
Bowater	954	ICI	1,400	Reuters	977	Vodafone	1,800
Brit Aero	2,500	Inchcape	2,300	Rolls Royce	6,100	Warburg (SG)	301
Brit Airways	1,700	Kingfisher	2,700	Ryl Insc	2,900	Wellcome	5,900
Brit Gas	5,000	Ladbroke	6,300	Ryl Bk Scot	1,500	Whitbd 'A'	2,500
Brit Steel	10,000	Land Secs	664	Sainsbury	3,700	Wilms Hld	3,100
Burmah Cast	208	Legal & Gn	4,100	Schroders	115	Wolseley	1,000
Cable Wire	5,000	Lloyds Bk	3,600	Scot & Newc	718	Zeneca	2,200

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		FT 30 share	2496.2 (+27.2)
Dow Jones	3727.26 (+10.34)	**Brussels:**	
S&P Composite	463.31 (+1.47)	General	7328.54 (+9.95)
Tokyo:		**Paris:** CAC-40	2162.24 (-0.39)
Nikkei Avge	17789.28 (+300.13)	**Zurich:** SKA Gen	660.40 (+2.30)
Hong Kong:		**London:**	
Hang Seng	10339.66 (+394.40)	FT A All-Share	1628.57 (+16.11)
Amsterdam:		FT 500	1734.89 (+19.65)
CBS Tendency	141.0 (+1.7)	FT Gold Mines	253.5 (+1.7)
Sydney: AO	2074.80 (+4.90)	FT Fixed Interest	130.49 (+0.14)
Frankfurt:		FT Govt Secs	106.97 (+0.28)
DAX	2137.45 (+26.75)	Bargains	32467
		SEAQ Volume	923.0m
		USM (Datastrm)	151.65 (+0.96)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
December 6	December 17	March 10	March 21

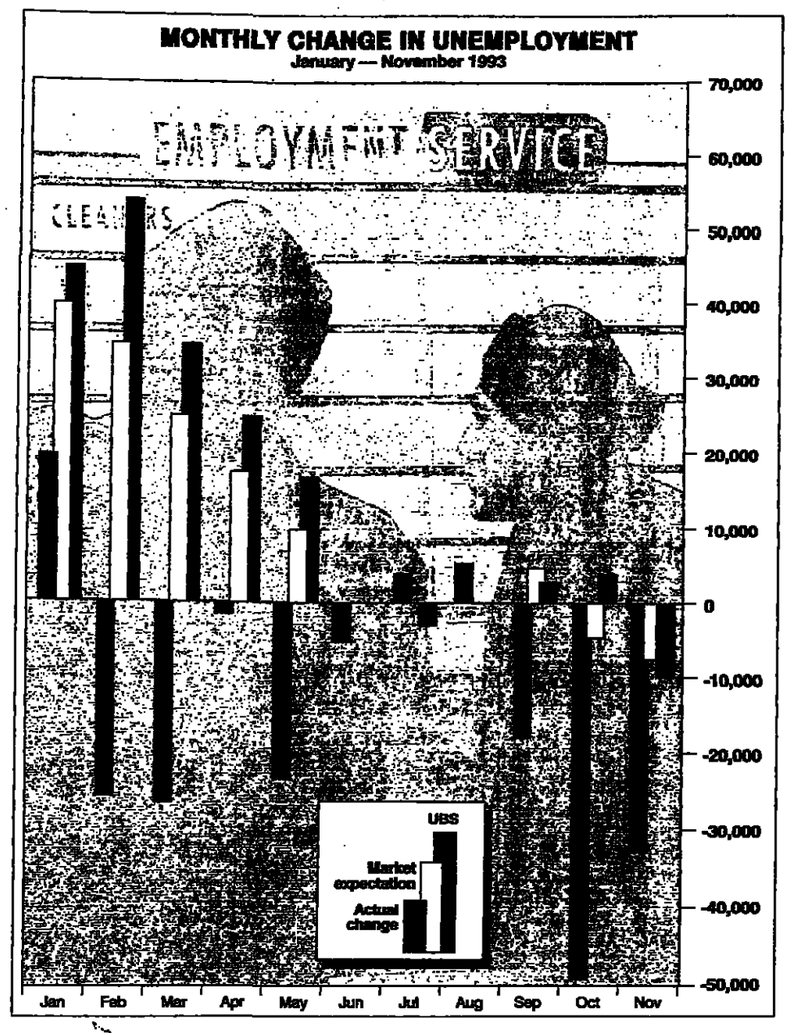
Call options were taken out on 16/12/93: Anglo Pacific Res, Celsis Intl, Ferromet, Flextech, Hanson Wts, Hollas, Mercury World Mng Wts, Sleepy Kids, Tadpole Tech, Wellcome.
Puts: Celsis Intl, Owners Abroad, Sleepy Kids.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Dec 93	3305.0	3318.0	3288.0	3313.0	21492
Previous open interest: 79463	Mar 94	3334.0	3347.0	3312.0	3343.0	18373
Three Month Sterling	Mar 94	94.85	94.89	94.80	94.88	32203
Previous open interest: 357748	Jun 94	95.02	95.06	94.98	95.01	13113
	Sep 94	95.08	95.11	95.05	95.07	4115
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 94	96.46	96.47	96.46	96.46	300
Previous open interest: 8319	Jun 94	96.12	96.14	96.12	96.12	88
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 94	94.55	94.57	94.44	94.45	81867
Previous open interest: 684237	Jun 94	95.06	95.07	94.95	94.97	38300
Long Gilt	Dec 93	120-03	120-08	119-28	120-05	1421
Previous open interest: 134433	Mar 94	119-08	119-16	119-03	119-12	54220
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 94	116.35	116.38	116.27	116.30	1213
	Jun 94				115.21	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 94	100.78	100.83	100.43	100.45	83335
Previous open interest: 151725	Jun 94	100.70	100.70	100.40	100.37	37
German Gov Bd Bobl	Mar 94	103.42	103.46	103.14	103.17	3002
Previous open interest: 11179	Jun 94					0
Three month ECU	Mar 94	94.24	94.25	94.10	94.10	1159
Previous open interest: 27335	Jun 94	94.75	94.75	94.63	94.62	531
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 94	96.35	96.38	96.21	96.21	13466
Previous open interest: 55599	Jun 94	96.58	96.58	96.47	96.46	2678
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 94	116.85	117.03	116.53	116.63	

Painting by numbers can blur employment picture

Philip Bassett finds merit in the claim that City forecasts throw little light on the operation of the UK labour market



When, by yesterday lunchtime, the excitement caused by the 36,100 fall in unemployment had cooled in the City, a gaggle of bankers' and brokers' analysts slipped into the London headquarters of the Department of Employment.

Over coffee and sandwiches, the City experts with an interest in unemployment met Whitehall economists and statisticians in the latest step in a tentative process begun, away from any public limelight, by the Government: to try to explain the workings of a market — the labour market — which it believes the City traditionally does not understand but which is crucial to Britain's economic recovery.

From banks including NatWest, the TSB, Bank of America and Barings, and from brokers including BZW, Robert Fleming, Nomura and Kleinwort Benson, they came to consider aspects of the labour market — or, as one Whitehall insider put it, so the department could "try to knock some sense into them".

Perhaps they need it. The City yesterday got Britain's unemployment wrong — again. The fall announced by the Government was more than three times the median "forecast" expected by the City in the latest of a long series of wildly inaccurate predictions.

In private, senior civil servants are at least as scathing about most City economists as was Lord Lawson, the former chancellor, when he famously dimissed them as mere "teenage scribblers". They believe their analyses about unemployment to be lightweight or wrong and their forecasts about changes in unemployment to be largely ludicrous.

"They're hopeless," one key adviser said. While a policy official commented: "They need looking at — very hard."

Yet, at the same time, Whitehall knows how influential they can be — a realisation that only serves to increase the irritation they cause. Government ministers know that, often, what is thought about an indicator such as unemployment is largely how it is measured against what the City's "expectations" were of it.

Last month, for instance, when unemployment fell by an unexpectedly large 49,000, ministers were needled when the sharp drop was presented - certainly by radio and TV news broadcasts — not in itself but as the City being confounded by the news. "Who cares whether the City is *confounded by a drop in* unemployment?" one irritated senior official asked. "All that means is that some 22-year-old so-called economist has got his figures wrong — again."

Just how far does the City get its unemployment forecasts wrong? Broadly speaking, a lot. Publicly, the Government no longer makes forecasts about unemployment. Privately, of course, it does — Treasury officials still make detailed estimates about the likely trend in unemployment, which are a far cry from the anodyne "assumptions" about unemployment published a fortnight ago in the Budget. But the Treasury's real estimates are now kept strictly for internal consumption. "We used to see them," one senior Employment Department official said. "Now, even we don't."

Most journalists who concentrate on unemployment also now eschew predictions, after a spate of stories, reports and wire copy which got the figures often spectacularly and mirthfully wrong. Most independent policy groups, such as the Unemployment Unit, are similarly chary about forecasting each month's figures. Not so the City. Every month, the analysts who ate the Employment Department sandwiches yesterday boldly go where no others now go at all.

This is how it works: at the end of each week, a splutter of faxes arrive in news organisations' offices containing "forecasts" from analysts in banks and brokerage houses on the following week's economic figures. Many analysts also include their own calculation of the average, or "median" of other such forecasts. These are then picked up and widely reported as the City's "expectations". As a key indicator, unemployment is of course a regular. For yesterday's figure, Goldman Sachs, for instance, predicted a fall in seasonally-adjusted unemployment of 20,000. So too did Greenwell Montagu.

The market "median", which was duly and faithfully trotted out in yesterday morning's radio and television broadcasts as the "expectation" of the fall in unemployment, was 10,000 (or 7,500, or something else, depending on which particular broker's sheet was given credence).

Most City forecasts on unemployment are, at best, little more than an arithmetic calculation arrived at by averaging out the changes of the last six months. Tracking the City's estimates back over time illustrates clearly how wide they are of the mark.

In what is very far from the worst of the forecasts, UBS, the broker, publishes each month its own forecast, and its view of the market's forecast, of the change in unemployment. To pick the UBS estimates is arbitrary — but they come in a well-packaged, pocket-size booklet which is widely used by policymakers and journalists, and so has a real impact.

As the graph shows, during the course of this year, for instance, neither the market's nor UBS's forecasts have *in any month* got the monthly figure right, or even very close. The nearest was the market's estimate in July this year, which was only 4,300 out (the estimate said "flat", the actual change was a 4,300 rise).

In reply, analysts argue that as a proportion of such large figures as the 2.85 million unemployed, their estimates are broadly right and that statistically a 4,300 rise, for instance, *is* broadly flat.

Faced with City-derived headlines which they feel play down success, Government ministers do not take so sanguine a view. They and their advisers suggest that the "market" of such forecasts, as made by City economists, not only gets unemployment wrong when the figures are highly volatile — as at a turning point — but that it also got it wrong when unemployment was much more stable, with relatively smooth patterns of rises or falls.

In particular, they accuse the City of completely missing the boat when unemployment started to fall this year, and of the forecasters refusing to believe what the figures were saying — thus fuelling, among other things, Labour's attack on the integrity of both the figures and Government statisticians.

Robert Lind, a UK economist with UBS who analyses unemployment, offers a spirited defence of his own and his colleagues' work. He accepts it is not easy to produce forecasts of monthly figures — especially those as volatile as unemployment at turning points in the economic cycle — and even goes so far as to describe it as a "mug's game". But he says: "All that the market expectation does is to give you a benchmark to judge against the out-turn. The market can then make an assessment against the figure, and work *out what it needs to do*. But that works its way through the market in a couple of minutes, rather than having any long-term impact."

In part, this clash between City and Whitehall is common not just to the unemployment figures, but to most economic indicators and indeed to much reporting of companies' financial results. Many business leaders feel that in many cases, what matters is not so much how much or little money a company made, but whether it was higher or lower than expectations — in other words, as they see it, whether or not City analysts got their sums right.

Clearly, there is some truth in that, perhaps a great deal. For their part, the analysts believe the meetings between the City and Whitehall on unemployment, of which yesterday's was the third, are useful in giving what many in the City believe are ivory-tower economists and statisticians in Government a clue of what the impact of their work might be in the hard-money world of the Square Mile and beyond.

Inevitably, if unemployment continues on what appears to be a downward trend, ministers' anxieties over it will lessen and the tensions surrounding it — including those between Whitehall and the City — will ease. But despite ministers' monthly bravado, their nervousness about unemployment remains high, as does the City's influence, - suggesting that Whitehall will need to stock up with coffee and sandwiches for some time to come.

TEMPUS

Fear of heights

EVERY time the stock market looks as though it has run out of steam, it urges itself a little higher. The reasons for the record close on the FT-SE 100 index — 32 points higher than Wednesday's record — look tenuous. Granted that December options are settled today, but that event normally passes without comment, while the flow of economic data this week has been no more optimistic than expected and was tinged with a poor PSBR figure and the Bundesbank's refusal to cut rates.

But the market has no interest in bad news at present, any more than it takes much note of the rising tide of profit warnings. This week alone has seen a full house of corporate disasters, *including Trafalgar House and Fisons.*

For anyone with even an ounce of doubt about Britain's impending economic miracle the feeling of vertigo must be almost unbearable, with the FT All-Share index standing on a p/e ratio of 24 and a dividend yield of 3.5 per cent and falling. The most ominous sight is all the City's economists scrambling to raise their forecasts for the FT-SE 100 index close in 1994 to 3,600, or more.

The rise in the market relies on two assumptions: that base rates will be cut next year as low as 4 per cent and that corporate earning will recover sharply. The former may happen but the Bank of England's stance suggests that rate cuts will be desultory. The latter looks far more problematic: the signal from most major companies is that 1994 will be another year of sluggish recovery, with *much of the rise in earnings* being used to rebuild earnings rather than increase dividends. When the New Year arrives, the market's hangover may be painful.

M&G Group

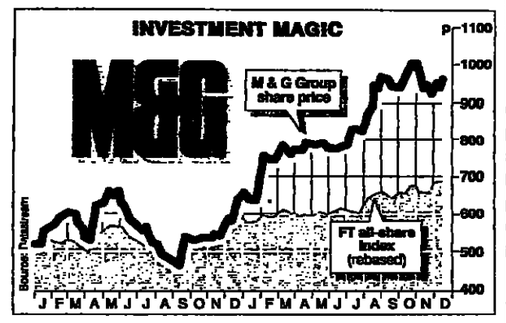
THANKS to the bull market, M&G can practise what it preaches. Having urged companies to hold and increase dividends during the recession, rising world equity prices have boosted the group's funds under management and its profits so impressively that it can lift its dividend by 25 per cent.

Such an increase looks slightly rash, especially since only £92 million, or less than 2.5 per cent, of the £3.9 billion increase in funds under management came from actual net sales of unit trusts. The 25p dividend leaves cover at less than two times, and M&G may regret committing itself if there is a sharp correction in world stock markets.

M&G, however, breezes confidence about the direction of share prices, as well it might given the rise in indices since September. Its opinion is worth listening to since 88 per cent of its unit trusts were in the top performance quartile in the past year.

Nor does M&G seem to know what else to do with its cash resources, now above £150 million. Its dislike of acquisitions seems unchanged, and, unless it distributes cash to shareholders, it would look more like an investment trust than a fund manager.

Like the rest of its sector, M&G is a geared play on equity prices. Another good year on the stock market would push the dividend to 30p, putting the shares on a 3.8 per cent yield. But even bulls might prefer a higher quality of earnings.



Bowthorpe

BOWTHORPE is an unlikely City favourite. Its products range from the low-tech, such as cable ties and heat sinks, to advanced environmental testing equipment, and its tendency towards acquisitive expansion is unfashionable in these days when the catchphrase is "back to basics".

Bowthorpe's proven success, however, puts the shares at 23 times current-year earnings, so it is taking the opportunity to call for more equity. Since the last rights issue, in 1987, Bowthorpe has achieved a neat turnaround. In the late eighties, defence work accounted for almost a third of sales. Today, it is less than 7 per cent. The group swapped ailing defence interests for high-margin businesses in the environmental and data acquisition markets and widened its international spread.

The speed of the shift into high-margin business has accelerated in 1993, with four acquisitions worth £35 million. The £64 million rights proceeds will enable the group to continue at that rate. It needs to, because high-margin business accounts for only 5 per cent of sales.

The group underlines the success of recent policy by forecasting record profit in 1993, in spite of an inevitable setback on the Continent. The cash call merits support on the group's record, but the shares' upside looks limited.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Meyer tees off at Heathrow

ASHLEY Meyer, dynamic managing director of the famous Lillywhites sporting store, saw his dreams for global expansion come a step nearer yesterday, when he opened a new Lillywhites shop at Heathrow airport. The duty free shop in Terminal Three is the first of several planned, and is a model for many such outlets that it is hoped will sprout around the world. "Our first priority was to make the store profitable," says Meyer, who has spent more than £10 million upgrading the Piccadilly Circus store since he came in as managing director in 1989. "A second shop is due to open at Gatwick North in August." The omens were good yesterday, with the Heathrow shop taking £1,500 in the first hour-and-a-half, and Meyer hopes Lillywhites golf clubs, rugby shirts and other delights will soon be found further afield. A draft agreement has been signed with Inchcape, the international trading group, with a view to opening joint venture stores in the Middle East and Orient from 1995 onwards. The store, owned by Forte, eventually hopes that 75 per cent of its earnings will come from abroad.

After Agnew?

COULD Kleinwort Benson at long last be ready to announce the name of a successor to Jonathan Agnew, who was ousted as chief executive in May? I hear that KB directors have been summoned to a meeting on Tuesday, fuelling speculation that "something big" is in the air. No comment was forthcoming from the firm, but insiders are hoping for a welcome Christmas present. The tortuous hunt for the new chief executive has proved deeply embarrassing, with at least three City figures reputed to have turned the job down. Now, perhaps Lord Rockley has found his man ...

Salary stakes

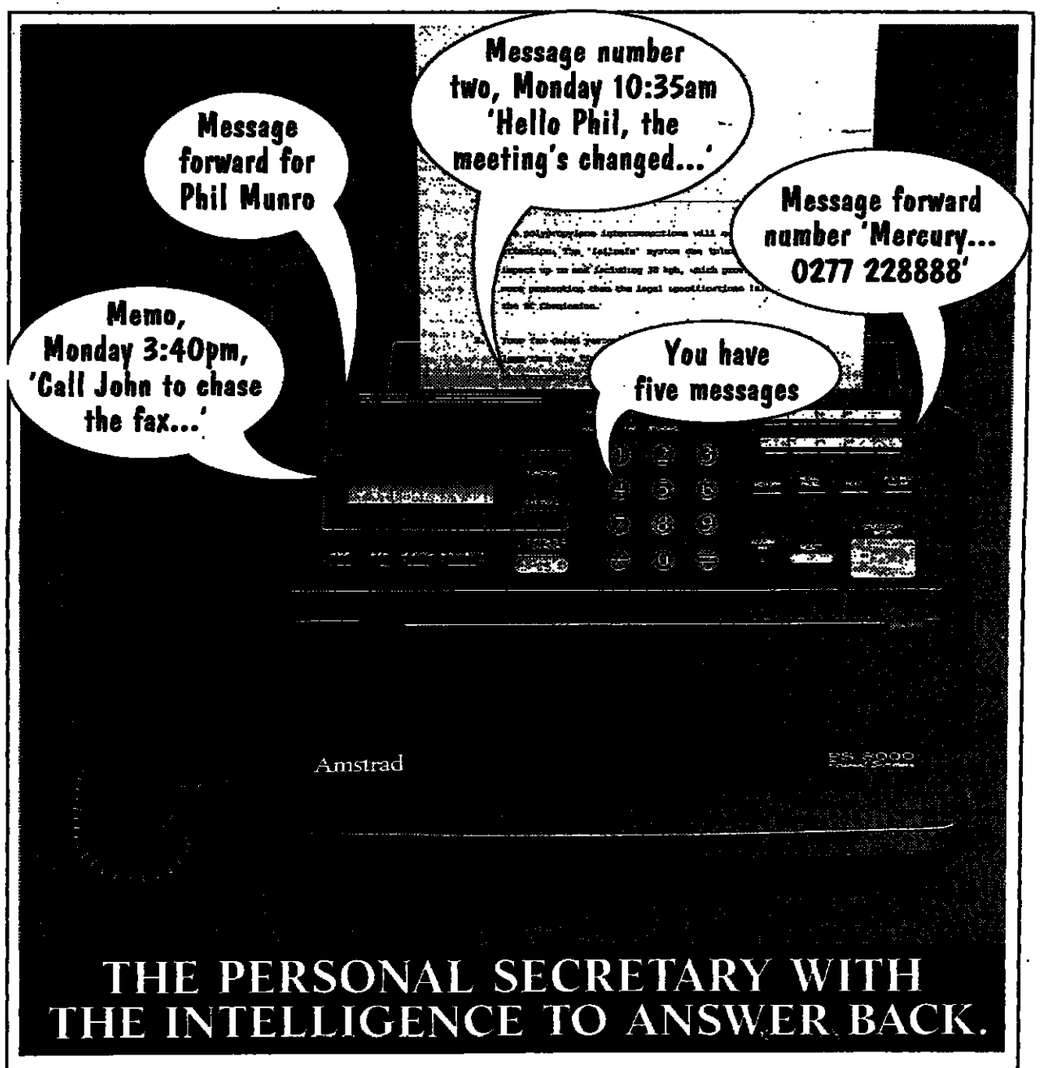
BAR staff, receptionists and British Rail cooks are among the worst-paid employees in Britain. And the top salaries are reserved for barristers and national newspaper editors, according to a survey in the new edition of *Cosmopolitan* magazine. Bar assistants (£6,786), BR cooks (£7,592), receptionists (£9,037) and ambulance workers (£9,903) are on the lowest rungs of the pay ladder, according to statistics culled from a variety of sources. Few will be surprised to learn that top QCs earn in excess of £200,000; outclassed only by national newspaper editors, who are reputed to earn between £80,000 and £250,000 and up. Other top earners include advertising creative directors (£95,379) and Cabinet ministers (£63,047). The survey touches on accountancy and banking, but leaves stockbroking salaries to the imagination. With fat bonuses back in favour, top City earners would knock the others for six.

Peace feeler

WITH Michael Heseltine poised to rule on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on the future of British Gas, a seasonal surprise was in store for two influential players in the saga — Clare Spottiswoode, newly appointed director-general of Ofgas, and James Cooper, chairman of the Gas Consumers Council. Gil Hogg, director of regulatory operations at British Gas, has sent each of them a Christmas card depicting the white dove of peace.

JON ASHWORTH





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AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
Equity & Law Hse, Corpn St, Coventry
0203 553 251

General Acc	531.60	565.60	+ 6.50	2.17
General Inc	478.90	509.50	+ 5.80	2.17
UK Growth Acc	362.00	385.20	+ 4.50	2.34
UK Growth Inc	253.50	269.70	+ 3.20	2.34
Higher Inc Acc	663.30	727.00	+ 8.40	3.26
Higher Inc Inc	408.70	434.80	+ 5.00	3.26
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	196.00	208.90	+ 0.60	5.50
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	100.20	105.80	+ 0.30	5.50
Nth America	295.50	276.10	+ 0.20	...
Far East	348.00	370.20	+ 0.30	...
Europe	262.00	278.80	+ 2.10	0.73
Brit Excell	72.45	77.08	+ 0.82	2.44
Brit Fedmtls Acc	103.40	110.00	+ 1.00	4.05
Brit Fedmtls Inc	78.48	83.46	+ 0.75	4.05
Global Opps	84.07	89.44	+ 0.53	...
Balanced Acc	54.86	58.37	+ 0.65	2.20
Balanced Inc	34.57	57.85	+ 0.64	2.20

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
80 Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth 0345 717 373

High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	141.10	149.60	+ 0.40	5.35
High Inc Equity	164.60	176.30	+ 1.10	4.59
Worldwide Bond	274.20	290.70	+ 0.70	3.61
Capital Growth				
American Growth	300.80	321.70	+ 0.60	.98
Asian Pacific	382.70	407.10	+ 3.80	.23
Assets & Earnings	258.20	274.60	+ 2.10	1.98
Conyday & Energy	115.70	123.70	- 1.20	.44
Recvd Trust	66.02	70.67	+ 0.66	1.26
Growth Exp Bal	128.70	136.90	+ 0.50	...
Income & Growth	393.10	416.00	+ 3.00	3.15
Ethical	71.54	76.10	+ 0.49	2.39
International	111.50	118.60	+ 0.86	.42
Dividend & Growth	63.34	67.38	+ 0.34	4.17
Global Growth & Sec	64.31	68.41	+ 0.06	2.78

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
14 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7NS
031 220 6733

UK Small Cos	1583.0	1653.0	+ 8.00	...

ASTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ
0800 833 550

Aberdeen Portfolio	62.60	65.85	+ 0.59	0.78
Amer Inc & Growth	44.92	47.56	- 0.15	0.66
Cash	97.00	102.09	+ 0.01	4.91
European	96.41	104.40	+ 0.55	...
European Income	94.96	100.80	+ 0.31	1.49
Exempt	1015.0	1066.7	+11.00	3.88
Extra Income	53.06	57.85	+ 0.37	4.56
Far East Emg Ecn	119.90	126.20	+ 1.47	0.51
Fixed Interest	24.42	26.07	+ 0.04	7.08
Fund Inv Tst	170.50	182.00	+ 1.30	0.93
Japan	186.70	198.00	+ 1.70	...
Latin American	67.60	71.90	+ 1.00	0.70
Pacific	75.46	80.82	+ 0.65	0.34
Property Share	72.48	77.37	+ 0.22	1.70
UK Emerging Cos	62.58	66.79	+ 0.25	1.86
UK Growth	48.54	49.02	+ 0.52	2.40
World Growth	75.37	80.44	+ 0.74	1.68
Ethical	65.08	69.48	+ 0.61	2.56
Aberdeen Gilt Inc	55.91	59.91	+ 0.14	7.30

ACUMA FUND MANAGERS LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex 0277 690 356

UK Equity Income	94.38	100.40	+ 0.81	3.34
UK Equity Growth	82.75	88.03	+ 0.82	2.68
European	84.88	90.02	+ 0.41	1.42
Nth American	86.51	70.70	+ 0.51	0.40
Far Eastern	68.07	72.42	+ 0.66	0.28
Money	64.98	64.98	...	4.37
Fixed Interest	74.35	79.10	+ 0.13	5.89
Index Linked Gilt	70.07	74.54	+ 0.07	1.35

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
38 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF
031 556 5252

British Growth	68.28	72.64	+ 0.41	2.49
British Income	78.44	83.45	+ 0.27	3.24
Select Portfolio	83.29	88.61	+ 0.02	...

Formerly Alexs

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
101 King's Road Brentwood CM14 4DR
0402 205 550

Amity Income	77.14	81.85	+ 0.62	2.01
Income Builder Inc	69.11	73.52	+ 0.59	2.79

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
IFA dlg: 0793 610 366 Client dlg: 0793 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	267.90	285.00	+ 1.50	2.84
Capital	418.30	441.90	+ 3.70	1.77
Balanced	697.60	743.70*	+ 4.80	2.30
Accumulator	1375.0	1363.0	+11.00	2.82
Income Trusts				
American Income	50.05	53.50	- 0.19	3.08
High Income	437.40	461.50	+ 2.90	3.38
Equity Income	247.20	264.60	+ 1.60	3.27
High Yield	269.00	287.50*	+ 1.60	3.27
Govt Securities	36.05	38.05	+ 0.25	4.70
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	135.30	144.60	- 0.80	0.17
European Growth	32.16	34.17	+ 0.19	0.44
International	159.70	166.20	+ 1.00	0.35
Japan	191.30	204.20*	+ 3.20	0.01
Pacific	420.60	449.60*	+ 8.60	0.12
Sect of America	94.10	451.20*	+ 1.60	0.54
Wwide Asset Val	45.95	48.11	+ 0.39	0.41
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	547.60	585.30*	+ 5.90	2.12
Corp & Gilt	49.35	52.75	+ 0.35	3.81
Smaller Cos	168.90	180.50*	+ 1.20	1.20
2nd Smaller Cos	160.10	171.10	+ 0.90	1.30
Recovery	139.20	148.80	+ 1.30	1.96
Met Min & City	152.00	162.40*	- 0.10	0.77
Oseas Earnings	350.30	374.40*	+ 4.10	2.15
Technology	156.50	167.20	+ 0.70	0.07
UK Special Sits	448.10	479.00	+ 3.60	2.03

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Manor Royal, Crawley RH10 2QF 0293 526 911
Canrad Out Fens 101.60 105.50 + 2.90 1.45
Rosmdin Pent Rets 65.88 66.36 + 2.39 4.00

BSU-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
28 St John's Sq, London EC1M 4AE
071 251 6767

Capital	74.33	79.07	+ 0.59	1.96
International	61.73	65.67	...	0.51

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
7 Rutland Court, Edinburgh EH3 8EY
031 222 4242

America	209.40	222.60*	...	...
Bond	130.30	137.00	...	5.76
Brit Smlr Cos	94.47	100.50	...	1.00
Cons & Gen	61.98	66.13	...	5.25
Energy	425.10	462.40*	...	0.26
Europe	215.60	229.20*	...	0.66
Euro Smlr Cos	94.67	100.30	...	0.97
Income Growth	130.80	139.30	+ 1.50	4.16
Japan	308.30	324.60*	...	...
Pacific	119.10	126.70*	...	0.64
UK Smlr Cos	47.98	51.04	...	0.94
Japan Fd	698.70	718.70	...	...
Managed Fd	175.90	187.10	...	2.99

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
36 Queen St, London EC4R 1BN 071 489 1673
Brit & Dom | 106.40 | 110.90 | ... | 1.74
Capital Growth | 116.20 | 122.30 | ... | 2.21
World Opps | 197.50 | 209.90 | ... | 0.46

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
11 Broadway, Stratford E15 4BJ 081 534 5544
Balanced Trusts

Bal Inv Fd Inc	353.60	368.30	+ 3.00	2.69
European Bal Inc	101.10	106.70	+ 0.10	7.14
Exempt	78.28	83.48	+ 0.71	...
Financial	75.65	80.91†	+ 0.20	2.36
500.00	444.90	474.60	+ 2.10	2.51
General	279.10	298.40	+ 2.30	2.48
Property	240.10	260.00	...	6.12
Trustee	190.40	203.60	+ 1.40	2.29
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.90	100.90	...	4.61
Extra Income	120.30	128.60	+ 0.80	4.08
Gilt & Fxd Int	63.57	65.71†	+ 0.09	7.68
Income	551.50	589.90	+ 3.70	3.91
Income Builder	68.04	72.38	+ 0.24	4.58
Intl Income	68.65	73.32	+ 0.18	2.83
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	120.80	128.80	+ 0.50	2.55
Leisure	116.20	124.30	+ 0.90	1.56
Recovery	411.80	440.50	+ 3.70	2.99
Smlr Cos Inc	29.88	42.77	+ 0.41	1.22
Special Sits	274.30	293.30	+ 1.40	1.96
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	132.10	149.10†	...	0.22
Aust Asc	238.70	254.90	+ 1.10	1.42
Aust Inc	149.40	159.00†	+ 1.40	1.43
Euro Gwth Int	135.40	143.70	+ 0.50	0.65
Japan & Gen Inc	171.80	181.90	+ 2.80	...
Japan Spec Sits	75.07	79.52	+ 1.29	...
Unit Trusts Inc	27.74	29.23	+ 0.04	0.49
Worldwide	169.70	180.20	+ 0.80	0.39

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 158, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ
081 658 6002

American Growth	98.52	104.90	+ 0.10	0.10
Amer Smlr Cos	131.30	140.90	+ 0.40	...
Cash Trust	50.26	50.269	...	4.99
Convertibles	58.32	62.37†	- 0.52	5.60
Eastern	296.90	319.70	+ 8.60	1.60
Equity Income	94.40	100.60	+ 0.44	5.00
European Growth	278.30	295.90	+ 0.50	1.48
Europe	190.70	203.50†	+ 0.90	1.50
Gencian Growth	74.62	79.40	+ 0.78	0.70
Global Bond	77.20	75.12	...	5.30
Global Growth	127.00	135.70†	+ 1.30	...
Japan Growth	199.10	213.30	+ 2.90	...
Japan Smlrlse	170.10	181.80	+ 2.70	...
Korea Trust	66.02	70.67	+ 0.66	...
Portfolio	135.20	144.60	+ 1.30	1.20
UK Growth	92.36	98.35	+ 0.55	2.80
UK Smaller Cos	88.84	96.06	+ 0.50	1.90
Select Managers	75.30	80.51	+ 0.67	2.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
26-34 Old Street, London EC1V 9HL
071 250 3000

Intl Gwth Port Inc	76.93	81.84	...	...
Special Oppor Inc	51.50	54.79	...	...

BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD
5 Glamour St, London EC1A 9DP 071 236 6461

Special Sits	171.60	183.50	- 0.80	0.61
Dividend	84.64	90.52	+ 0.60	4.22
Int Gth & Inc	227.80	243.60	+ 0.70	2.09
UK & Gen	46.25	49.46	+ 0.68	1.31
Fund of Funds	65.41	69.96	- 0.15	...

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
50 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6HR
041 223 6029

Balanced Growth	108.46	116.00	+ 1.14	1.55
Smaller Cos	96.40	103.10*	+ 0.99	1.05
Higher Yield	65.41	69.96	+ 0.41	3.01
American Gth Inc	68.38	73.34	+ 0.07	...
European Growth	120.62	129.00	+ 0.65	0.17
Global Bond Inc	31.47	33.38†	+ 0.05	4.86
Mngd Pfolio Inc	41.91	44.83	+ 0.22	1.06

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL
071 488 7226

Short Dated Gilt	70.28	71.23	- 0.11	4.90

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 185, Manchester M60 0AH
061 832 9060

Environ	147.30	156.60†	+ 0.80	1.42
UK Growth	169.10	177.80	+ 1.60	1.62
UK Income	154.80	148.50	+ 0.80	3.75

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
High St, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
0707 651 122

Can Gen Dis	191.10	202.50	+ 2.20	1.79
<do> Income Dist	114.60	121.50	+ 1.60	1.62
Gilt & Fxd Int	45.88	48.64	+ 0.11	5.59

For Cannon see Lincoln National

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AP
061 236 5685 Exng 061 236 5685 Dlg: 061 236 5362

Argonaut & Gen	146.10	155.50	+ 0.20	...
European Inc	75.66	80.07	+ 0.80	0.74
Far East & Gen	65.29	69.42	+ 1.49	...
Income & Growth	73.88	80.73	+ 0.19	1.57
Growth	455.60	485.20	+ 2.70	2.14
Income & Growth	451.10	496.70	+ 4.10	3.35
Master Portfolio	107.34	111.69	+11.00	1.94
Special Sits	97.91	104.16	+ 1.47	2.09
High Yield	1378.0	1421.09	+14.00	5.87

CAPITAL HOUSE UNIT TST MGRS
Capital House, Pentland Square, Edinburgh
031 228 4477 Dealing: 0800 833 964

American Gwth Tst	37.40	39.99	+ 0.01	0.52
Cash Income	50.17	50.177	...	5.02
European Gwth	38.14	40.66	+ 0.40	0.86
Income & Gwth Inc	28.83	30.83	+ 0.33	4.01
Intnl Gwth	31.09	33.24	+ 0.31	0.77
Japan Gwth	25.57	27.34	+ 0.29	...
Managed Tst Inc	49.88	53.34	+ 0.54	0.49
Oriental Opps Inc	163.80	174.10	+ 0.30	0.56
Property Shares	42.16	45.09	- 1.09	1.80
Smaller Cos	29.44	31.48	+ 0.06	1.68
UK Growth Tst	26.04	27.85	+ 0.34	2.71
Royal Scottish Assurance				
Cap Hse Global Inc	73.34	78.65	+ 0.84	1.63
Cap Hse UK Inc	69.20	74.01†	+ 0.86	2.31
Exempt	23.59	24.26	...	...
Formerly Brown Shipley				
European Inc	25.30	27.05	+ 0.20	0.99
European Acc	26.24	28.06	+ 0.21	0.39
Financial	148.60	158.90	+ 0.70	2.56
Foundation	47.46	49.53	+ 0.53	2.72
German	50.61	54.12†	+ 0.53	0.07
High Income	80.28	85.87†	+ 0.46	5.94
Income	134.20	145.70	+ 1.30	3.78
Intl Growth	27.09	28.63	+ 0.12	0.16
Managed Pfolio Inc	103.70	110.90	+ 1.30	1.67
Mngd Pfolio Acc	197.30	211.00	+ 2.50	1.67
Monthly Income	80.46	86.09†	+ 0.04	3.74
North American	109.40	117.00†	+ 0.50	0.16
Orient	144.90	154.90	+ 1.90	...

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
5 Cazenhall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH
071 606 0705

Cazenove Portfolio	82.68	88.43	+ 0.60	2.21
American Portfolio	89.87	95.99*	+ 0.18	1.00
European Portfolio	87.07	93.45	+ 0.49	1.35
Japanese Portfolio	63.10	67.34	+ 1.22	...
Pacific Portfolio	144.37	155.24*	+ 1.71	0.71
UK Inc & Growth	74.97	80.34	+ 0.77	3.75
Utility & Bond	60.77	61.50	+ 0.59	5.91

CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD
5 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BA 071 332 5000

UK General Tst	69.89	72.32	+ 0.77	2.77
Global Tst	61.65	65.39	+ 0.71	0.29
Recovery Tst	70.13	74.60	+ 1.02	1.77

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
151 Farringdon Rd, London EC1R 3AD
071 637 7667

Intl Growth	134.83	140.90*	...	...
UK Growth	105.31	114.35	...	1.12
UK Income	108.30	117.39*	...	4.15

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966

Beckman Intl	92.04	97.27	- 0.21	1.72
Beck Bio-Tech	40.22	42.79*	- 1.48	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	154.19	162.30*	...	1.13
City Fin Atmty	71.20	73.89	...	1.66
City Fin America	60.59	64.83	...	...
City Fin Intl	74.51	78.43*	...	0.90
City Fin Japan	158.34	164.87	...	...
Prime Fin Spl Cap	268.18	282.29	...	2.30
Friars Rise Inc	205.36	218.37†	...	4.90
Buckley Wrld Gth	135.40	144.04*	...	0.69
Fairmnt Cap Gth	140.10	147.47†	+ 2.31	...
<do- Inc & Gth	116.73	122.87†	+ 0.81	1.61
Fairmount Intl	154.15	164.35†	+ 2.51	...
City Fin Pfflo Inc	62.04	66.00†	- 0.52	3.38

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
39 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AJ 0992 422 144
Emerging Markets 96.37 99.81 + 0.60 ...

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0800 373 393

American Growth	56.67	61.10	- 0.19	...
Atlas Mngd Gwth	37.00	39.78	+ 0.27	0.10
Dragon Growth	78.21	83.65	+ 0.83	0.35
Equity High Inc	85.71	90.94†	+ 0.70	3.47
European Gwth	47.49	50.35	+ 0.43	0.51
Evergreen	29.68	31.53	+ 0.12	...
General Equity	85.18	90.38	+ 1.09	2.10
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	28.18	29.61	+ 0.01	7.85
Japan Growth	44.76	48.31	+ 0.65	...
Pentlgtn Growth	81.55	53.64	+ 0.52	2.04
Pnl Sm Cos Inc	30.64	32.51	+ 0.06	0.84
Retirement Inc	27.05	28.09	+ 0.13	5.17
Special Sits	36.12	38.63	+ 0.21	1.87
UK & Overseas	49.82	52.86	+ 0.65	1.00

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
Clarigate Maidstone, Kent ME14 4TY
0634 668 000

Capital	65.89	70.47	+ 0.75	2.72
Income	63.50	67.91	+ 0.52	3.67

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD
Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ 081 686 9858
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds				
Equity Inc	166.76	177.40	+ 1.29	4.88
Fixed & Convertible	47.29	50.31	+ 0.14	5.64
Monthly Inc Plus	53.34	56.96	+ 0.12	7.87
Preference Share	53.08	56.47	+ 0.06	6.73
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	134.86	143.47	+ 1.19	5.73
Managed Fund	69.11	73.52	+ 0.58	2.74
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	39.52	42.04	+ 0.28	1.95
UK & General	79.00	84.04	+ 1.06	2.58
UK Growth	138.50	145.31	+ 1.58	1.61
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	176.13	187.37	+ 1.58	...
Far Eastern Gth	141.47	150.50	+ 2.22	0.28
Global Bond	88.21	93.74	+ 0.02	5.70
Japan Growth	111.75	118.88	+ 1.67	...
North Amer Gth	161.76	172.09	+ 0.74	...
Oriental Growth	88.71	94.37	+ 1.62	...
Worldwide Growth	62.84	66.85	+ 0.44	0.25
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	90.23	92.21	+ 0.01	4.74
Homemaker Fund	78.04	83.02	+ 0.81	1.84
Quilter Fund	139.05	147.93	+ 1.40	2.01

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
Luton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
0438 744 940

Growth Inc	58.97	62.73	+ 0.75	2.80
High Income	34.88	37.10	+ 0.28	4.30
Japan	32.66	34.74	+ 0.37	...
Smaller Cos Inc	29.22	31.08†	+ 0.16	2.40
Smaller Cos	30.40	32.34†	+ 0.16	2.40
North American	31.99	34.03	- 0.01	0.50
European	34.92	37.14	+ 0.33	0.60

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
1 White Hart Yd, London Bridge SE1 1NX
071 407 5966
Consistent Ut 31.78 34.07 + 0.37 4.34

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
1 King St, Manchester M60 3AH 0800 526 398

Growth	135.40	144.10*	+ 0.60	2.02
Income	76.76	81.65	+ 0.43	4.22
European	56.79	60.43†	+ 0.47	0.80
Recovery	131.70	140.20	+ 2.50	1.84

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
78-80 Cornhill, London EC3V 3NG 071 283 9494
Equity Dist 828.20 842.20† ... 3.60

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
0277 890 370

Fellowship Tst	70.40	74.90	+ 0.39	1.62
Income	242.90	258.50	+ 2.10	3.29
Smaller Cos	137.60	146.40	+ 0.60	0.95
Inv Portfolio	77.20	82.40	+ 0.61	1.91
High Income Port	69.85	73.99	+ 0.49	3.48

DIMENSIONAL UNIT TST MGMT LTD
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XS
071 638 0777

Euro Small Cos	1400.3	1429.9†	+19.70	...
Japan Small Cos	1090.2	1112.0†	+33.10	...
UK Small Cos	1642.2	1713.8	+10.30	...
US Small Cos	1583.7	1627.8	+11.60	...

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
66 Chiltern Street, London EC1A 2BL
071 317 8889

Disc Inc	182.60	192.20*	...	2.96

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
25, Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh 031 315 2000

European Gwth	209.20	252.90	+ 1.60	1.19
New Asia	228.40	245.70	+ 5.90	0.32
Japan Growth	116.60	123.90	+ 1.40	...
Jap Smlr Co	472.3	501.90	+ 3.10	...
Nth Amer	242.90	257.20	+ 0.20	0.95
Shintd Asia Pac Ht	127.50	135.20	+ 3.40	0.46
UK Inc & Gwth	222.30	237.20	+ 3.00	3.41

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 0242 527 955

UK Balanced Inc	140.20	149.10	- 0.90	2.31
UK High Inc Inc	154.70	164.60*	+ 0.90	5.38
UK Prof & Fl Inc	64.40	68.28†	+ 0.08	6.15
Envmnmntl Opps	80.06	85.17	+ 0.55	1.44

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
97 Hanoverial Terrace, Edinburgh
031 225 1627

American	119.00	126.40†	- 0.90	0.40
Convertibles	23.58	25.05	- 0.13	7.78
Equity Income	137.70	146.30	- 1.50	3.42
Eurofund	44.31	46.99	+ 0.25	0.85
Financial	50.20	53.34	+ 0.38	2.27
Growth & Inc	241.80	258.00	+ 2.90	2.91
High Dist	162.70	172.90*	+ 1.60	4.34
International	377.30	401.10	+ 4.50	0.81
Intl Income	97.17	103.70	+ 1.40	2.51
Latin American	43.28	45.99	+ 0.03	0.27
Pacific	87.32	92.78	+ 0.58	0.32
Preference Share	25.67	27.20	+ 0.14	5.70
Tokyo	198.50	210.70	+ 3.70	...
UK Smaller Cos	226.10	240.20	+ 0.40	0.98

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU
071 373 7261

Endurance Pd	199.90	212.70	+ 3.40	0.44

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QN
0296 431 488

European	74.22	78.13	+ 0.34	1.68
Far Eastern	317.02	333.71	+ 2.91	1.28
High Income	156.80	165.99*	+ 1.24	4.30
Intl Growth	116.72	122.86	+ 0.42	1.09
North American	118.36	121.43	+ 0.14	0.93
Pelican	125.00	127.41	+ 1.39	2.94
Smaller Cos	70.84	74.57†	- 0.01	2.01
Special Sits	88.83	93.50	+ 0.98	1.91
Tst of Inv Tsts	182.32	191.92	+ 1.72	1.95

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966

Smaller Cos Inc	195.47	208.62	...	1.78
Smaller Cos Acc	208.41	222.52	...	1.78
Recovery	47.79	49.79†	...	2.35

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
25 Cathedral Yard, Exeter EX1 1HB
0392 412 144

Balanced	121.04	128.53†	+ 0.40	4.47
Capital Growth	90.27	95.89	+ 0.60	...
Pfl of Inv Tsts	44.48	47.45	+ 0.30	0.34
High Income	49.70	53.02	+ 0.20	8.36
Warrant	60.43	65.69	+ 0.74	...
Zero Preference	37.56	39.86†	+ 0.05	...

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
86 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RE 0273 228 707

Family Amer Tst	73.41	78.00	- 0.02	2.60
Family Income Tst	51.08	54.33	...	6.00
Family Trust	79.68	84.76	...	1.70
United Charities	248.60	264.40†	...	3.50

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ
Call Free Private Clients 0800 414 161
Broker Dealings: 0800 414 181

Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	...	4.90
Stabiliser Growth Range				
Controlled Risk UK	38.21	38.55	+ 0.01	3.11
<do- Europe	34.76	36.69	+ 0.07	4.90
<do- America	23.84	25.12	+ 0.02	0.52
<do-Acc Japan	28.02	29.53	- 0.08	0.76
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	31.92	32.209	...	6.20
Intl Bond	32.80	34.33	+ 0.07	4.88
Income Funds				
High Income	28.11	29.587	...	4.84
Income Plus	122.00	129.80*	- 0.60	3.35
Amer Eq Inc	47.76	50.66	- 0.01	1.00
European Income	42.23	44.91	+ 0.20	2.58
Far East Inc	66.06	70.78†	+ 0.62	2.33
Global Convertible	34.09	29.70†	- 0.16	2.27
Equity Funds				
American	70.64	75.35	+ 0.06	...
American	228.60	242.40	- 1.20	...
Amer Spec Sits	106.10	115.40	+ 0.60	...
Japan Smaller Cos	37.34	39.83	+ 0.01	...
European	148.60	158.10	+ 0.70	...
European Opps	58.36	59.61	+ 0.34	...
UK Growth	85.20	90.60	+ 0.89	...
Growth &				

Record run continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 13. Dealings end December 31. §Contango day January 4. Settlement day January 10. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
497	345	Abbey Nt	492	+5	17.8	3.2	18.1
280	179	Allied Irish	280	+2	...	3.7	14.4
228½	130	Aus New Z	214	+2	...	4.1	∞
380½	271½	Bankamerica	363½	+½	...	...	...
295	177	BK of Ireland	278	+2	...	4.5	20.5
350	325	Bk Liquid UK	350	...	17.0	6.1	...
233	116½	Bank Scotland	233	+4	4.6	2.5	31.6
646	362	Barclays	610	−2	...	2.6	...
½	2	Benchmark	½	...	...	...	5.9
22½	15½	Carlisle	22½	+1	...	...	...
398	395	Cater Allen	391	...	20.0	5.9	...
157	85	Castles	157	+5	...	3.6	20.9
2487½	1787½	Chase Manh	2282½	+50	...	...	...
2600	1343½	Citicorp	2356½	+9½	...	2.4	31.9
485	250	Close Bros	485	...	...	...	...
6155	6225	Commercial	6149½	+100	...	2.8	17.6
1346	1230½	Deutsche Bk	1336½	+13½	...	1.6	...
98	45	First Nat Fin	59½	...	...	1.1	...
1651	876	Fuji Bank Y	1401	...	...	0.4	...
598	342	Gerrard Nat	452	...	21.5	5.9	12.0
855	490	HSBC	852	+21	20.0	2.9	20.4
865	474	HSBC HK	854	+28	20.0	2.9	20.7
403	343	Hambros	376	+3	14.3	4.8	17.4
698	513	Joseph (L)	418	...	16.7	5.0	...
12	6½	King Shaxson	12½	...	...	9.0	8.6
549	312	Kleinwort Ben	549	+5	16.7	3.8	18.9
655	492	Lloyds	649	+5	19.1	3.8	18.8
118	68	Lon Scot Bk	95	+1	2.9	3.8	18.8
595	322	Mid Ulst Bk	548	+6	...	3.9	∞
620	420	Midland	581	−16	17.8	3.8	16.3
488	250	Provident	488	+4	12.4	2.5	19.4
414	305	Rea Bros	414	+10	12.0	3.2	11.4
43	15	Rothschild	41	...	...	...	...
508	288½	Berkeley Gp	507	+9½	...	1.5	27.3
116	65	Bett Bros	108	...	2.3	2.1	13.9
68	36	Blockleys	53	+2	1.0	2.4	28.6
355	189	Blue Circle	345	+9	...	4.1	...
285	220	Boot (Henry)	275	...	...	6.0	27.5
105	78	Brendon PLC	93	...	4.6	6.2	22.8
151	82	Br Dredging	130	...	5.2	5.0	28.9
86	45	Brit Pidings	80	...	1.7	2.7	...
163	99	Bryant	160	...	...	3.8	32.3
123	53	CALA	122	...	...	2.4	...
346	200	CRH	346	+4	...	2.5	19.0
43	18	Calebrand Hly	30	...	...	...	...
41½	21	Costain	39½	+½	...	...	...
150	109	Countryside	150	...	...	3.5	∞
100	38	Cres Nicholson	97	...	0.0	...	...
112	27	Cussins	103	+1	...	1.2	...
7½	1½	Dunstone	5½	...	...	...	...
25	15	Edmond Hdgs	19	...	0.3	2.0	...
2265	178	Epwin	272	...	7.0	3.2	23.1
59	32	Erith	55	...	0.3	0.8	...
506	252	Eve Groups	438	−2	...	3.0	16.5
6½	3	Explorma	4½	...	...	...	...
140	97	Freeman Gps	133	...	...	4.7	21.2
50	32	Galliford	50	...	...	3.3	...
81	52	Gibbs & Dandy	81	+2	...	3.1	...
923	695	Gleeson (M)	910	...	...	2.8	15.8
164	90	Hewden-Stuart	158	+2	...	2.6	28.2
51	28	Hewetson	46	...	...	3.4	33.6
414	188	Heywd Wms	414	+12	13.0	4.2	...
119	37	Higgs & Hill	113	+2	2.5	2.8	...
38	26	How Gp	38	...	...	5.0	...
21	15	Howard Hdgs	20	...	0.5	3.1	...
78	39	Hunck Johnson	74	+1	1.0	1.7	...
19½	12½	Jarvis	14½	+1	...	...	...
316	196	Laing (J)	301	−6	9.0	3.7	12.0
1279	803	-do- 6.4% Cv Pf	1300	...	...	6.6	...
110	55	Le Cpdeside	110	...	4.5	5.1	43.4
23	10½	Level (J)	15½	...	...	...	7.0
350	240	Manders	350	+14	9.3	3.3	21.4
184	93	Marley	184	+4	4.3	2.9	54.0
130	61	Marshalls	129	+3	...	3.9	...
193	122	Marshalls (J)	188	−1	...	3.4	18.1
225	96	McAlpine (A)	225	+4	6.5	3.6	18.0
47	23	McCarthy & S	44	+2	0.5	1.4	...
523	272	Meyer Int	523	+9	...	2.4	52.4
129	62	Mowlem (J)	127	+2	4.0	3.9	...
165	51	NEM	153	−1	...	...	...
53	48	Needler ▲	48	...	...	3.7	22.4
171	106	Newman Tuks	157	...	...	5.3	21.0
200	197	Persimmon	200	+3	8.6	3.8	20.6
26	10	Phoenix Timber	10	...	...	...	...
1725	1237½	Pochin	1550	...	29.0	2.4	21.8
177	83	Prowting	177	+6	3.4	2.4	...
6½	1½	Quilligotti ▲	1½	...	...	...	...
946	555	RMC Gp	945	+15	...	2.6	36.5
117	75	Raine Ind	88	+2	...	4.4	20.4
26	18	Ramsden	26	...	...	...	...
603	402	Redland	585	+13	25.0	5.3	34.0
86	64	Redpath	80	...	4.3	6.7	11.8
333	207	Rugby Group	333	+18	6.4	2.4	25.5
68	23	Svrid-Rose	60	−2	...	0.5	...
168	68	Sharpe & Fisher	162	...	...	1.1	28.2
255	86½	Sheffield Ind	255	...	...	2.6	62.6
205	82	Sheriff Hdgs▲	205	+6	...	2.3	∞
95	66	Skanska	94	+1	...	6.9	21.4
240	198	Smart (J)	228	+3	...	4.7	17.2
6½	...	Stanrich	1½	...	...	...	...
168	100	Tarmac	163	+5	5.5	4.2	...
186	131	Tay Homes	165	+1	...	4.4	20.4
141	68	Taylor Woodrw	141	+5	1.0	0.9	...
633	433	Tilbury Douglas	615	...	33.0	6.7	20.0
39	19	Turcz Bros▲	35	...	...	1.4	...
305	168	Travis Perkins	305	+8	8.0	3.3	53.7
40	25	Tty Group	38	...	1.0	4.3	7.9
38	21	Tudor▲	21	...	...	1.5	...
9	4	Vibroplant	8	...	2.5	3.6	30.9
66	20	Ward Hldgs	48	+1	...	...	...
36	25	Waterhouse	33	...	...	...	...
475	360	Watts Blake	434	+4	...	3.5	18.7
21½	6½	Wescol▲	20	...	...	...	...
193	90	Westbury	183	+3	5.0	3.4	28.6
12	4½	West Scaffold▲	7	...	...	...	...
4	3	Wiggins	3½	...	...	...	...
471	362	Wilson Bowdn	471	+9	...	2.2	33.1
205	147	Wilson (C)	191	+5	3.9	2.6	33.1
194	104	Wimpey G	182	...	...	3.9	...
47	15	YRM	19	...	0.5	3.3	...

BREWERIES

546	517	Allied-Lyons	535 †	+10	...	4.2	17.6
467	441	Bass	558 †	+5	...	4.6	15.3
299	189	Boddington	294	+2	7.5	3.3	16.6
199	162	Bulmer (HP)	412	−2	...	3.2	18.6
194	129	Burtonwood Bre	179	+4	4.3	3.0	19.0
144	75	Eldridge P Ale	134	+4	...	4.1	∞
70½	50	Fosters Brewing	63½	+1½	...	4.3	...
435	338	Fuller Sm 'A'▲	418	...	7.5	2.3	17.8
1045	840	Grand Met	1045	−8	...	3.7	16.9
440	347	Greenalls Grp	440	+14	...	3.6	14.9
575	505	Greene King	545	...	...	2.9	15.1
321	288	Guinness	302	+5	...	2.1	18.0
281	208	Hardy Hanson	234	+2	8.5	4.6	...
138	108	Hawthorn▲	135	...	3.0	2.8	12.2
356	255	Highland Distl	356	+10	...	2.8	17.7
3138	2538	Holt J	3125	...	42.0	1.7	20.4
80	33	Hoskins Brew	78 #	...	...	...	58.2
232	210	Invergordon Dist	201	...	...	2.9	17.2
186	118	Macallan-Glen	153	...	4.3	4.1	20.9
465	375	Macdn Martn 'A'	395	...	...	2.8	18.8
228	164	Macdonald	202 †	+8	...	3.5	14.5
289	231	Matson Thmp	281	−1	...	2.5	15.7
357	265½	Matthew Clark	357	...	...	4.0	18.6
380	216	Morrison W	359	...	7.0	3.9	18.2
580	455	Morland	508	...	...	3.5	16.2
12	6½	Paramount▲	8	...	...	2.1	∞
207	145	Regent Inns	207	...	...	2.7	21.0
1230	753	SA Breweries	1253 †	+10	...	2.1	21.2
354	303	Scot & Newc	342 †	+2	...	4.0	18.4
225	155½	Taunton Cider	169 †	+2	4.2	2.5	16.2
283	213	Vaux Group	281	+2	9.5	4.3	...
1897	1220	Wetherspoon JD	1324	−1	...	2.1	25.1
399	250	Whitbread 'A'	378	−9	...	3.9	13.9
613	463	Whitbread D	523 †	...	22.6	3.0	...
515	475	Young 'A'	485	...	14.7	3.8	20.1

BUILDING, ROADS

140	73	Abbey	140	...	...	1.8	23.0	
259	12	Allenglisme▲	19	...	...	0.7	...	
51	28	Alfred▲	46	...	...	1.4	33.1	
120	65	Amec	119	+4	3.0	3.2	22.0	
12	4	Anglia Sec	7½	...	...	...	...	
329	150	Ashtead▲	329	+6	...	1.7	34.8	
143	101	Azlewoods	123	−1	...	5.1	...	
349	100	BPB Ind	332	+9	...	2.9	30.8	
95	57	Baggeridge Brk	94	...	4.1	4.3	∞	
31	18	Bailey (Ben) Cm	26	...	...	0.6	2.9	...
108	74	Barcon	85	...	3.0	4.5	∞	
56½	32½	Bardon	42	...	2.0	6.0	20.7	
220	94	Barratt Devs	220	+6	4.0	2.0	...	
474	305	Bellway	474	+10	12.0	3.2	...	
43	15	Bellwinch	41	...	...	...	...	
508	288½	Berkeley Gp	507	+9½	...	1.5	27.3	
116	65	Bett Bros	108	...	2.3	2.1	13.9	
68	36	Blockleys	53	+2	1.0	2.4	28.6	
355	189	Blue Circle	345	+9	...	4.1	...	
285	220	Boot (Henry)	275	...	...	6.0	27.5	
105	78	Brendon PLC	93	...	4.6	6.2	22.8	
151	82	Br Dredging	130	...	5.2	5.0	28.9	
86	45	Brit Pidings	80	...	1.7	2.7	...	
163	99	Bryant	160	...	...	3.8	32.3	
123	53	CALA	122	...	...	2.4	...	
346	200	CRH	346	+4	...	2.5	19.0	
43	18	Calebrand Hly	30	...	...	...	...	
41½	21	Costain	39½	+½	...	...	...	
150	109	Countryside	150	...	...	3.5	∞	
100	38	Cres Nicholson	97	...	0.0	...	...	
112	27	Cussins	103	+1	...	1.2	...	
7½	1½	Dunstone	5½	...	...	...	...	
25	15	Edmond Hdgs	19	...	0.3	2.0	...	
2265	178	Epwin	272	...	7.0	3.2	23.1	
59	32	Erith	55	...	0.3	0.8	...	
506	252	Eve Groups	438	−2	...	3.0	16.5	
6½	3	Explorma	4½	...	...	...	...	
140	97	Freeman Gps	133	...	...	4.7	21.2	
50	32	Galliford	50	...	...	3.3	...	
81	52	Gibbs & Dandy	81	+2	...	3.1	...	
923	695	Gleeson (M)	910	...	...	2.8	15.8	
164	90	Hewden-Stuart	158	+2	...	2.6	28.2	
51	28	Hewetson	46	...	...	3.4	33.6	
414	188	Heywd Wms	414	+12	13.0	4.2	...	
119	37	Higgs & Hill	113	+2	2.5	2.8	...	
38	26	How Gp	38	...	...	5.0	...	
21	15	Howard Hdgs	20	...	0.5	3.1	...	
78	39	Hunck Johnson	74	+1	1.0	1.7	...	
19½	12½	Jarvis	14½	+1	...	...	...	
316	196	Laing (J)	301	−6	9.0	3.7	12.0	
1279	803	-do- 6.4% Cv Pf	1300	...	...	6.6	...	
110	55	Le Cpdeside	110	...	4.5	5.1	43.4	
23	10½	Level (J)	15½	...	...	...	7.0	
350	240	Manders	350	+14	9.3	3.3	21.4	
184	93	Marley	184	+4	4.3	2.9	54.0	
130	61	Marshalls	129	+3	...	3.9	...	
193	122	Marshalls (J)	188	−1	...	3.4	18.1	
225	96	McAlpine (A)	225	+4	6.5	3.6	18.0	
47	23	McCarthy & S	44	+2	0.5	1.4	...	
523	272	Meyer Int	523	+9	...	2.4	52.4	
129	62	Mowlem (J)	127	+2	4.0	3.9	...	
165	51	NEM	153	−1	...	...	...	
53	48	Needler ▲	48	...	...	3.7	22.4	
171	106	Newman Tuks	157	...	...	5.3	21.0	
200	197	Persimmon	200	+3	8.6	3.8	20.6	
26	10	Phoenix Timber	10	...	...	...	...	
1725	1237½	Pochin	1550	...	29.0	2.4	21.8	
177	83	Prowting	177	+6	3.4	2.4	...	
6½	1½	Quilligotti ▲	1½	...	...	...	...	
946	555	RMC Gp	945	+15	...	2.6	36.5	
117	75	Raine Ind	88	+2	...	4.4	20.4	
26	18	Ramsden	26	...	...	...	...	
603	402	Redland	585	+13	25.0	5.3	34.0	
86	64	Redpath	80	...	4.3	6.7	11.8	
333	207	Rugby Group	333	+18	6.4	2.4	25.5	
68	23	Svrid-Rose	60	−2	...	0.5	...	
168	68	Sharpe & Fisher	162	...	...	1.1	28.2	
255	86½	Sheffield Ind	255	...	...	2.6	62.6	
205	82	Sheriff Hdgs▲	205	+6	...	2.3	∞	
95	66	Skanska	94	+1	...	6.9	21.4	
240	198	Smart (J)	228	+3	...	4.7	17.2	
6½	...	Stanrich	1½	...	...	...	...	
168	100	Tarmac	163	+5	5.5	4.2	...	
186	131	Tay Homes	165	+1	...	4.4	20.4	
141	68	Taylor Woodrw	141	+5	1.0	0.9	...	
633	433	Tilbury Douglas	615	...	33.0	6.7	20.0	
39	19	Turcz Bros▲	35	...	...	1.4	...	
305	168	Travis Perkins	305	+8	8.0	3.3	53.7	
40	25	Tty Group	38	...	1.0	4.3	7.9	
38	21	Tudor▲	21	...	...	1.5	...	
9	4	Vibroplant	8	...	2.5	3.6	30.9	
66	20	Ward Hldgs	48	+1	...	...	...	
36	25	Waterhouse	33	...	...	...	...	
475	360	Watts Blake	434	+4	...	3.5	18.7	
21½	6½	Wescol▲	20	...	...	...	...	
193	90	Westbury	183	+3	5.0	3.4	28.6	
12	4½	West Scaffold▲	7	...	...	...	...	
4	3	Wiggins	3½	...	...	...	...	
471	362	Wilson Bowdn	471	+9	...	2.2	33.1	
205	147	Wilson (C)	191	+5	3.9	2.6	33.1	
194	104	Wimpey G	182	...	...	3.9	...	
47	15	YRM	19	...	0.5	3.3	...	

BUSINESS SERVICES

675	463	ADT	584	+2	...	...	...	
253	198	Adam & Harvey	253	...	10.0	5.5	4.6	
95	56	Air Londons▲	61	...	2.0	5.3	...	
52	37	African Lakes	44	...	...	6.0	22.9	
178	93	Astn Sec	178	...	4.9	3.4	...	
140	84	BET Ord	139	−½	...	2.0	5.6	
115	103	BKR Int	114	...	4.9	5.4	...	
218	183	BTP	220	...	8.3	4.5	12.7	
285	195	Barbour Index	240	...	8.0	4.2	16.4	
26	15	Brammall	23	...	0.7	3.8	...	
269	184	Brit Data Mgt	215	...	4.7	2.8	15.7	
25	12	Broadcastdata	22	...	...	1.4	17.5	
72	48	Brooks Service	54	...	...	1.2	...	
109	86	CRT Gp	97	...	...	3.6	17.1	
198	139½	Capita Group	198	+7	...	1.4	31.9	
45½	31	Capita Plc	41½	+1	...	2.7	16.0	
149	95	Chiltern Capital	22½	...	...	...	...	
70	26	Christie	70	...	...	...	...	
384	228	Chubb Sec	383 †	...	...	1.9	21.9	
116	90	Commsec	110	...	...	1.7	28.7	
38	6½	Corp Services	38	...	...	...	...	
91	20	Courts Cmbg	81	...	...	...	...	
142	50	Dart	136 †	−2	3.3	3.0	18.5	
256	198	Davis Service	217	...	...	4.4	14.3	
124	35	DW Facil▲	104	...	4.4	4.5	14.2	
27	11	Gardiner	26	...	0.4	2.0	18.0	
257	215	Hays	255	+9	...	2.5	23.4	
245	174	Hogg Robinson	236	...	...	3.6	17.2	
70	34	Holmes Protectn	70	...	...	...	2.4	
334	127	Hunting Wilsnsp	334	+22	...	1.4	28.0	
1185	975	ISS B DKr	2112½	−62½	...	1.0	14.6	
637	475	Inchcape	581	+17	...	3.2	18.5	
675	669	Johnson Clean	668	...	25.7	3.7	18.9	
12	2½	Lep	3	...	...	...	...	
288	173	Mitie Gp	275	...	3.5	1.6	21.4	
1187	893	Manpower	1042	−36	...	...	...	
62	40½	Michael Page	59	...	1.8	3.6	25.1	
279	115	Pentos▲	115	...	...	8.7	4.3	
4½	2	Prime People▲	3½	...	...	...	...	
142	97	Prudential Alld	63	...	...	29.8	3.5	
623	337	RCO	330	...	...	14.1	4.8	12.7
118	86	REA	98	...	...	2.0	2.6	...
108	43	Reed Executive	95	...	...	...	...	...
156	105	Reliance Sec▲	105	...	...	5.4	22.8	
208	178	Rentokil	223	+3	2.5	1.4	27.7	
290	228	Rolfe & Nolan	290 †	...	...	3.2	16.4	
399	319	Salvesen (C)	325 †	+1	...	3.0	21.6	
39	26	Scott Pickford▲	35	...	...	2.9	11.2	
10	5	Select Appt▲	7½	...	...	...	...	
1278	668	Serco Gp	1273	+3	13.3	1.3	35.2	
352	85	Sherard Cmpn▲	104	+1	...	3.8	22.9	
158	90	Sisnkley	103	...	6.6	2.6	17.0	
395	310	Warner Howard	325	...	...	...	...	
45	27	Welpac	28	...	...	2.0	17.8	
28	14	Wilis Gp	25½	...	...	...	...	

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

248	210	Allied Colloids	231	+2	...	24	21.2
998	613	Amersham	998	...	...	1.7	28.7
7	1½	Anglo Ust	2½	+62½	...	0.1	...
£113½	£135	BASF Dbl	£109	...	...	3.9	24.2
301	199	BTP	301 †	+1	...	4.0	...
£140½	£101½	Bayer DM50	£136½	+75	...	4.0	...
178	113	Biagden	122	+3	...	7.6	11.1
165	92	Brent Chems	122	+3	...	...	...
530	345	Br Bio-Tech	359	...	...	22.2	16.0
29	5	Cairo Gp	5½	...	7.2	0.3	16.0
180	126	Cumming (W)	145	...	...	3.8	11.7
638	421	Courtaulds	466	−1	...	3.0	10.0
347	228	Croda	331	...	...	5.6	7.9
149	103	Doeflex	103	−12	4.6	5.6	20.9
229	175	Ells & Everard	219	+1	...	4.0	23.0
45½	19½	Exro Colour	35	...	...	2.3	17.2
348	259	Halstead (J)	348	...	...	5.7	16.3
241	150	Hickson	176	...	...	3.2	...
£118	£850	Hoechst	£113½	+137½	...	2.8	15.1
229	163	Holliday Chem	184	...	...	4.5	...
777	608	ICI	780	+14	...	3.5	19.6
710	576	Laporte	710	+9	19.0	5.1	17.0
250	181	Leigh	193 †	...	...	...	...
97½	35	MTM	48	−2½	...	1.5	36.3
2050	1462½	Nestlé Hydro	1850	...	...	...	...

ELECTRICALS

182	134	ACT Group	149	+1	...	4.2	15.0
275	233	Acala	263	+1	...	3.1	18.9
162½	58	Aeron Compn▲	81	+3	...	...	42.1
480	395	Alumasc	474	+2	5.7	1.5	20.1
170	104	Alba	163	+6	...	3.7	18.4
50	19½	Alphameric	39½	...	...	...	...
55	22	Amstrad	40½	+½	0.5	1.5	∞
128	61	App Holos▲	73	...	...	...	...
8	5½	Atlan	5½	...	...	...	...
35	35½	Atlec	72½	+1½	...	0.4	...
283	224	Beales Hunter	235	...	...	5.0	14.3
9	2	Bennett & Fount▲	2½	...	...	...	...
446	370	BICC	416	...	18.2	5.8	...
358	408	Blick	470	+17	10.2	2.8	∞
1700	925	Borland▲	1188	−12	...	...	...
390	274	Bowthorpe	373	−9	6.9	2.1	34.4
486½	336	BT	470 †	+3½	...	4.3	18.1
232½	150	BT PrP	215½	+3	...	4.3	22.4
181	134	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	149	...	0.1	0.8	...
160	48	Burnfield	69	+1	5.7	N/A	10.9
509	334½	Cable Wireless	498½	+8½	...	1.9	26.1
27½	11½	Chloride	23	...	...	...	...
223	220	Cml Micros▲	220	...	...	2.2	19.6
115	74	Comply People	108	...	...	...	...
164	108½	Cray Elect	148	...	...	1.3	15.2
433	343	Critchley	421 †	+1	...	1.4	24.2
554	414	Delta	480	−2	...	3.6	20.1
445	305	Dennison Elc▲	445	...	...	1.7	18.0
630	395	Domino	620	...	7.4	2.3	14.1
66	48	Dowding Mills	65	...	...	4.8	27.8
1220	865	Dracke	1210	...	10.0	1.0	25.8
503	358	Electronic Data	503	+2	...	2.1	20.5
710	420	El Data Pic	535	...	5.5	1.3	∞
305	165	Electron House	135	...	2.6	2.4	29.6
30½	9½	Emess	21½	+1	0.1	0.6	...
867	442	Enrotherm	867	+6	8.5	1.6	30.4
191	108	FKI	191	+2	...	2.2	22.0
551	340	Farnell Elect	550	+1	...	1.5	20.1
91	33	Feedback▲	71 †	+1	...	3.5	9.6
18	1	Fermanit	1	...	...	...	...
304	101	First Tech	285	+3	...	0.9	24.5
220	81	Forward Gps	205	...	...	2.1	16.6
225½	134	Forward Tech	197	...	...	...	...
367½	264	GEC	319 †	+5	10.4	4.1	15.9
190	152	Grasby	149	+2	...	9.1	31.3
14	7½	Graysmoor	11	...	...	...	...
38	26	Hitachers▲	34	...	...	1.5	...
169	83	INSTEM▲	88	...	...	2.9	9.7
169	118	Ind Control	150	...	...	3.7	15.1
388	300	Jones Stroud	388	...	...	2.8	15.6
35	26	Kalamazoo	69 †	...	2.7	3.4	23.0
19	8	Kenbrey	12½	...	0.1	1.0	...
340	260	Kenwood App	332	...	...	3.0	18.2
265	47	Kewill Syst	232	...	...	...	...
100	60	Kode	165	...	6.0	4.5	19.6
60	16						

INFOTECH

The rise of the fail-safe network

System failure can endanger lives and cost money. **Matthew May** reports on the computer network that solves its own problems

While many businesses have been chasing cost savings in their computing budgets, as prices fall and PCs become ever more powerful, for a substantial minority cost is a secondary consideration.

In the field of critical computer applications, where the result of even a temporary failure is too serious to be contemplated, the prime question is which is the best of the different methods available to provide computers that are almost infallible?

The failure of a machine can endanger lives, most recently illustrated by the problems with a new computerised emergency system for the London Ambulance Service, which failed to cope with demand. In the finance industry, computer failure for a few hours can result in huge financial losses.

One solution to the problems that may arise is the so-called "fault-tolerant" computer. The theory is that by duplicating components the number of times a computer fails can be drastically reduced. When part of the system breaks down other parts should be able to take over and ensure that normal working can continue.

Fault tolerance is a field dominated by two companies, Tandem and Stratus. Tandem customers range from those using computers for the most critical uses — emergency services such as the Greater Manchester fire brigade — to the trivial — ensuring that a karaoke bar in Japan never fails to come up with just the song you want.

But the majority of British customers want fault-tolerant computers for financial transactions. The result is that all the major British banks and many others around the world use Tandem products. Tandem boasts that most of the world's money is moved on its computers, and that it also supplies every large telecommunications company in Europe. Other customers include manufacturers with 24-hour production lines, such as the large volume car producers, most of the modern stock exchanges and airline reservation system operators.

Providing fault tolerance has always been more expensive than conventional computing. With ever cheaper systems being developed by downsizing to personal computers, that gap has widened.

But fault-tolerant computer manufacturers say they too have cut prices and increased performance. Tandem's Himalaya range of computers, for example, is now priced from less than £20,000. Tandem says that the typical customer is able to pay back the extra costs of a fault-tolerant system within a year from the cost savings of avoiding breakdowns.

> The promise is to prevent four out of every five breakdowns on a computer network

But even if a computer and its software can be made near infallible for these "bet the business" applications as James Treybig, chief executive of Tandem, likes to put it, there are other areas that can go wrong and for some users produce near catastrophic results.

Many older generation mainframes and minicomputers have now been replaced by PCs linked together with larger computers, which are known as "servers", that can hold shared information and provide more specialised software not held on the desktop. Known as "client-server" computing, it has spread rapidly and is heavily reliant on the use of local area networks. The Gartner Group, a research consultancy, predicts that by 1995 more than two thirds of the new systems being installed in companies will operate this way.

But the result of a network failing can be just as serious as a computer breakdown. One study claimed that PC networks fail on average twice a month and that it typically takes a couple of hours before they are working again.

For many users working to weekly or monthly deadlines such breakdowns may be acceptable but for others the problem is how to get the cost savings from downsizing but end up with a system that hardly ever goes wrong.

Though the more dangerous methods of linking PCs, such as connecting computers in such a manner that if one link becomes faulty the whole chain goes down, are becoming rare, even more advanced network designs may not be able to provide an instantaneous method of rerouting information across a network if part of it fails.

Tandem now claims it has come up with an answer, the fault-tolerant network that, like its computers, comes with the promise that it will rarely break down. Along with its subsidiary, Ungermann Bass, Tandem has announced a set of products that it promises can prevent four out of every five breakdowns on a computer network. The new products should withstand any single point of failure on a network and provide an alternate path from a server to the desktop PC without the individual user noticing that anything has gone wrong. They will be on sale from next spring.

The additional cost of creating this fault-tolerant link compared with a conventional local area network should not be more than £150 for each desktop computer wired in, says the company.

Tandem has not been immune to the effect of the recession and there have been both layoffs and losses. But if the fault-tolerant network lives up to its promise it will at least be being sold into a fast-expanding market. And like other products of the computer industry, networks are becoming more powerful — something which will allow them to be used in new ways.

This week, for example, Intel, the world's biggest chip producer, announced an agreement with Synoptics Communications to jointly develop and sell machines by next summer that will allow users to transfer information at about ten times the current speed available under the Ethernet technology used on most networks.

The companies argue that business customers have been hitting hurdles in trying to move large amounts of data within their networks and that there is a need for a greater "bandwidth" as networks start to be used for data intensive applications such as imaging and video-conferencing.

And if fault-tolerant networks do become popular, then the excuse that companies cannot provide information, help customers or pay out cheques because "the computer is down" will become even less believable than it is today.



Computer failure can bring financial dealing rooms to a standstill

ONLINE

Hello, hello

MERCURY One-to-One, the mobile phone network that launched within an area bounded by the M25 in September, has expanded its coverage to nearby towns such as St Albans, Maidstone and Slough, as well as Gatwick Airport.

The service, which now covers an area in which ten million people live, is planned to cover a quarter of the UK population by next spring and 90 per cent by the end of the decade.

Epilepsy survey

COMPUTER games, suspected of being a possible cause of epilepsy among young players, are no more likely to trigger epileptic seizures than television, according to a National Epilepsy Society study, commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry. The report says that out of about 30,000 people in Britain who have their first epileptic seizure every year, about 600 are susceptible to fits triggered by television, video games, computer graphics and other flashing light sources.

Up to 150 people a year may have their first seizure triggered by playing a video game, but the report estimates that television will touch off about the same number of fits.

Chips up

IN a remarkable turnaround for a once-troubled industry, American semiconductor makers retook the lead in chip production this year, surpassing Japan for the first time in eight years.

The American gains reflect improved manufacturing technology, bad economic conditions in Japan, and strong American sales of chips used in personal computers.

Dataquest, a market research firm, says American companies control 41.9 per cent of the world semiconductor market compared with 41.4 per cent for Japanese makers.

Hi-tech festival

ONE in three British families plans to have computer-related presents under their Christmas tree next week, according to a survey conducted by MORI for Dell, the PC manufacturers.

Those with young children between five and eight are seen as particularly keen, with more than half



those questioned expected to buy at least one computer related present. Parents will spend an average of about £200.

Bargain buy

AN IBM compatible PC using the 286 chip is the latest piece of old but cheap computer technology on offer from Brands Direct. The company is selling a batch of Pro 3000s, manufactured by the Daewoo Corporation, which include 1MB of RAM, a 20MB hard disc and 14in mono monitor for £350 including VAT, or £445 with a colour monitor. Further information from 0800 881100.

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هكذا من الأصل

David Hewson on how manufacturers are gearing software to educational needs



Syracuse Language Systems produces a version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears on CD-rom to teach youngsters foreign languages

Children zap into learning

Children are the computer industry's latest dream market. By diverting them from the games of Sega and Nintendo towards a new blend of education and entertainment — "edutainment" in the jargon — computer firms believe that PCs will finally make the jump from commercial tool to everyday consumer item.

While parents would like to provide their offspring with a ticket to the USS Enterprise, they fear that they will instead be sold a bit part in *Wild Palms*.

Last week, Microsoft, the world's biggest software company, announced two £50 packages for writing and artwork aimed at children aged eight to 14, with the hope that they will make creative work on the PC as much fun as Sonic the Hedgehog and considerably better for young minds.

Yet for all the predictions of growth in the use of PCs, serious doubts remain about whether children benefit from much of the software on offer. Many of today's products are overpriced and underpowered when compared with a simple book.

Then there is the fear factor: parents fear their children will be left behind if they do not have access to a PC, but they also fear that a childhood spent face to face with a computer screen may produce some sort of techno-zombie.

Bill Gates, Microsoft's founder and chairman, once famously referred to children as "basically a subset of the family", but now maintains that he is bringing creativity and liberation to the world's youngsters, not enslavement by the PC. "You have kids today sitting in front of television hour after hour. In no way are they interacting. A PC is a tool for learning and creativity, much more so than a TV set or video game."

Larry Rothenberg, the vice-president of Syracuse Language Systems in New York, producers of some of the most acclaimed educational software in America, is scathing about the general standard of programs on the market.

The company was launched out of a project started at Syracuse University in 1985. It now has a family of highly original applications on CD-rom that use games and stories, such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, to teach familiarity with foreign languages using speech and graphics, but without written work.

"Very few children's educational software development efforts are preceded by a research stage where content experts, children's learning experts and technologists work together," Mr Rothenberg says. "It is no wonder that products fall short without such research. Children's minds are unpredictable, and many first efforts are bound not to work."

Mr Rothenberg says that lack of research means that children's packages run aground for a variety of reasons: they are boring; they are fun but fail to teach; they are cheap derivatives from another medium, books, videotapes or films; or that they merely contain drills using skills that the child already has.

"Perhaps the most insidious group are products that teach things that are already being taught in a functioning household. This includes early learning skills and even reading.

"What child requires a computer to learn colours, shapes, sizes, addition, subtraction or the alphabet? And I would suggest that once a child learns the basics of reading on the lap of a parent or teacher, what he or she needs is books, books and more books.

"If a given piece of software is keeping a child from reading a book, it is probably lessening his or her reading ability. The simple truth is that, for most children in homes that have computers, there is no need for software that teaches many of these early learning skills."

But if Mr Gates is right, Microsoft's resident cartoon character, McZee, will become as familiar to young children as Nintendo's Mario. Bright blue and dressed in ever-changing outlandish costumes, McZee pops up throughout the software to help the user learn the application.

Mr Rothenberg agrees that the software must be fun, but fun in its place. "Good educational software for children should teach something that needs teaching, it should be fun or children will not use it, and the fun should be connected to learning."

In search of a rare communication talent

Specialists in information technology with other strings to their bows are in increasing demand as companies try to tie their computer and communication systems more closely to business processes.

"This is becoming more and more significant as organisations become more customer focused and use IT to support their business," says John McManus, head of multinational services at the management consultancy KPMG.

"You've now got some very high-powered systems integrated across different areas of an organisation, and they have to be installed, tuned up and operated at high speed.

"That takes people capable of looking across the business, capable of talking as easily about the financial cycle or the production cycle as about IT, and about the relationships between them."

Mr McManus can talk with some authority on how rare these combinations of skills can be because he has been trying to recruit just such individuals. Other large consultancies — including Coopers & Lybrand and Touche Ross — as well as software houses are also looking for combined IT and business knowledge.

"My own group started off as one which brought together accounting and IT specialists," Mr McManus says. "Now it has grown to include manufacturing, logistics, even doctors in the health sector."

For people with the right background or potential, salaries of £30,000 are just the starting point, he says.

DP Options is a recruitment agency which, earlier this year, was commissioned to find recruits with experience of the SAP package of programs, modular software for integrating business functions such as accounts, manufacturing, distribution and management information.

Looking for five or more years of commercial and IT experience, it quoted salaries of £25,000 to £40,000 plus substantial benefits.

"The right people are very thin on the ground," says Carole Weedon, a director of the agency. "The people we have placed with SAP experience are very marketable."

Tony Coombes, professional services director for IT contract supplier Systems Re-

Specialists in IT and business can name their terms and salary

sources, suggests that such individuals can make substantially more money as freelance contractors. "If they are any good, their employers will naturally want to keep them. But some are coming out of the large consultancies as they see themselves being marked up by 100 per cent to clients. They can make at least £1,000 a week, and possibly a lot more if they are very experienced and have knowledge of the latest program packages."

He says that demand is growing quickly, especially for people who combine IT experience with knowledge of sales and marketing, manufacturing or banking. "When people get contract staff or consultants in they want a greater breadth of experience than they can find in-house."

There are several different profiles that Mr McManus thinks might qualify an IT professional for a ride on the new wave. "I'd be looking for relevant business experience in a good quality company, and experience of implementing projects that have succeeded. It could be a user who has been involved in a heavy user management role, or a team leader, ideally using one of the leading packages.

"At a higher level, maybe someone who has managed a cross-functional project, perhaps restructuring a department. If they are used to working in multi-disciplinary and multinational teams, the sky is the limit," he says.

DAVID GUEST



John McManus: on the lookout for a combination of skills

Of mice, pens and big ears

Gift ideas for the computer buff who seems to have everything

What kind of Christmas present do you get for the computer user who has everything? Your favourite boffin has a high-powered desktop personal computer, lots of memory, a CD-rom drive and all the big, popular software packages you can imagine.

However, there are probably a few, new off-beat items that even the most ardent PC users will not yet have heard of.

Consider, for example, the merits of a new microphone for PC users developed by Blue Sky Technologies of Livermore, California.

The greatest distinguishing characteristic of this microphone? It is shaped like a human ear. Known as Ear Mic, it is actually a combination of a microphone and amplifier packaged in an ear-shaped casing. Ear Mic runs on batteries, weighs less than seven ounces, attaches to the side of most surfaces with the use of two velcro strips and comes with a three-foot coaxial able to connect it to your PC.

Marc Roberts, the president of Blue Sky, suggests that buyers may even want to decorate it with ear-rings. "With about 250,000 sound cards sold each month, we recognised that no one was addressing the microphone aspects of multimedia with anything specific," he says.

Mr Roberts also suggests that there are problems with a lack of sensitivity with unamplified microphones and that users do not often know where they should put them. Ear Mic sells in America for $33 (£22) and interested British buyers can bend his ear on 0101-510-447-3277.

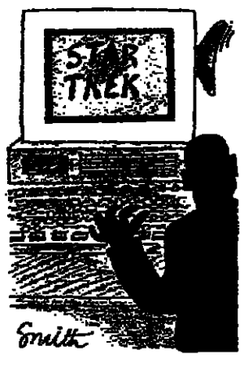
If you do not want to lend an ear to that idea, you might want to look at something that finally settles the issue of whether the pen is mightier than the mouse.

Over the past few years, there has been a great deal of interest in controlling PCs by using devices such as a hand-held mouse or pen controllers.

Now another Californian company has developed a PC controller that is a cross between the mouse and the pen. Known as PC Stylus, it is a pen-like device with two buttons along the side and a small flat area at the base.

The area at the base of the PC Stylus contains a small steel ball and a mouse-like controlling mechanism that offers precise enough "tracking" to be used like a pen.

Imsi, makers of the PC Stylus, claims that it eliminates the "hand fatigue" associated with using a mouse — while being small enough to be a worthwhile companion to portable computers. It sells for



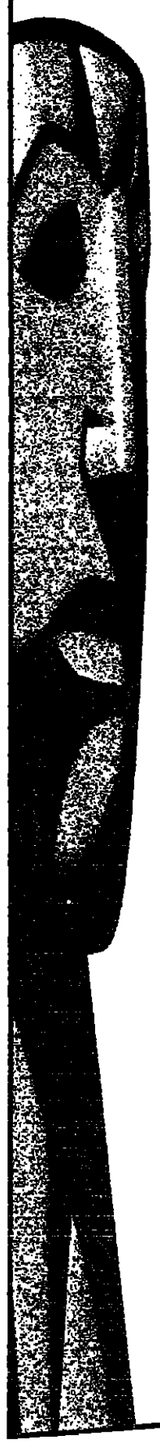
£30 and is available from Imsi on 081-758 1447.

Finally, perhaps a new style of screen saver may do the trick. Berkeley Software, makers of the popular After Dark screen saver — which puts fun images on the PC display whenever you are not using it, ostensibly to prevent the "burn-in" of images on to the screen — also makes a screen saver based on the *Star Trek* television series.

It put the images and sounds of the original 1960s television series on your screen whenever you don't touch the keyboard for a few minutes. This is widely available from dealers and typically sells for less than £40.

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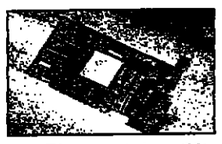
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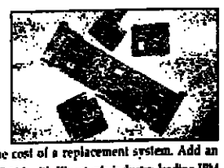


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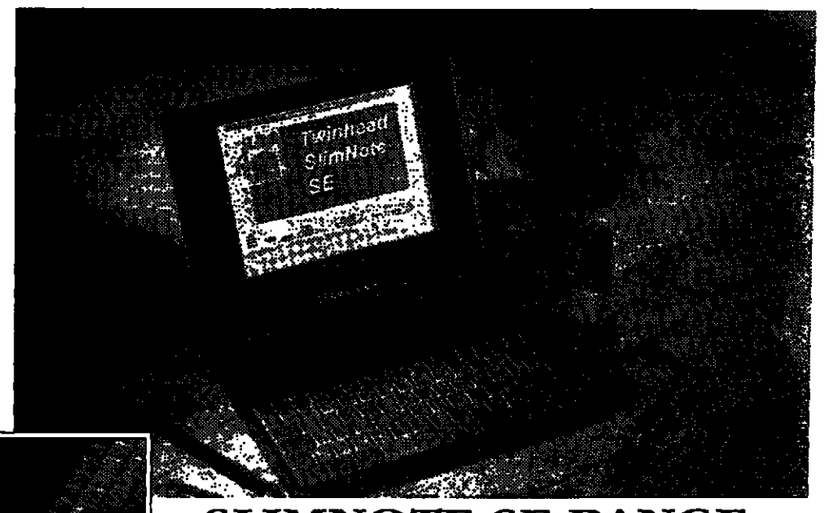
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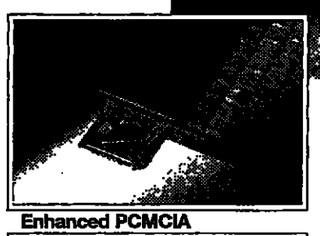
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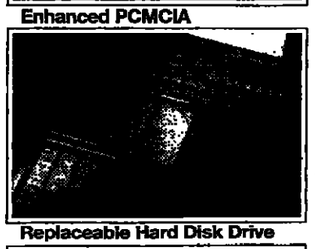


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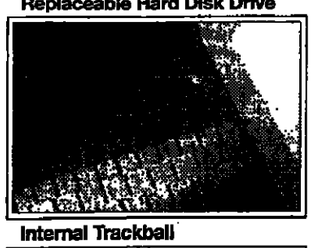
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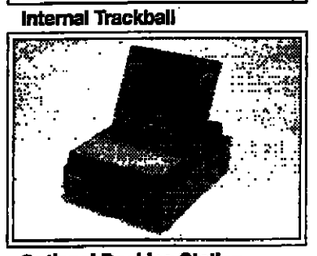
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Baby takes priority over child mother

Birmingham City Council v H (a Minor) and Others

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Woolf

[Speeches December 16]

Where a local authority sought an order under section 34(4) of the Children Act 1989 to terminate contact between a baby in care and his mother, who was also a child in care, the welfare of the baby was to be treated as paramount.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by R, a child aged two in care, through his guardian *ad litem*, from the Court of Appeal [Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Evans] (*The Times* February 23, 1993; [1993] 1 FLR 883) which had allowed an appeal by his mother, M, aged 16, the adoptive daughter of Mr and Mrs H but in the care of Birmingham City Council, from the decision of Mr Justice Connell on November 27, 1992 granting the council leave to terminate contact between R and M.

Mr James Munby, QC and Mr Patrick Roche for R; Mr Michael Horowitz, QC and Mr Jeremy Posnansky for the council; Miss Elizabeth Lawson, QC and Miss Elizabeth Szwed for M; Mr Malcolm Bishop, QC and Miss Rehna Azim for the father; Mr Roderic Wood, QC and Mr David Travers for M's guardian *ad litem*.

LORD KEITH, agreeing with Lord Slynn's reasons for allowing the appeal, added that it was desirable that something be said about the level of separate representation of parties, all at public expense, which was a feature of the appeal.

R, proceeding through his guardian *ad litem* had been represented by solicitors and by senior and junior counsel funded by the Legal Aid Board, and rightly so. The council, which supported the appeal, had been similarly represented, at the expense of the Birmingham community charge or council tax payers.

Separate solicitors and also senior and junior counsel had appeared for each of the mother, the father and the guardian *ad litem* to the mother. Those three had lodged a joint written case. The mother and the father were funded by the Legal Aid Board, and the mother's guardian *ad litem* by the council. There was no significant difference between the arguments for those who supported the appeal or between the arguments for those who resisted it.

In the circumstances, there had to be a serious question whether the degree of separate representation was necessary, or in any event whether the employment of so many senior counsel was justified. It was to be hoped that in future cases where a similar question might arise serious consideration would be given by solicitors and counsel to the practicability and desirability where appropriate of securing joint representation with a view to minimising the burden on public funds.

LORD SLYNN said that R had been born in October 1991; his mother M was born in 1977. Each of them was at all material times a "child" for the purposes of the 1989 Act. The council applied to the court for leave to refuse M contact with R and M had applied for an order that she should have contact with R.

Mr Justice Connell had said that there was a strong likelihood that R would suffer significant harm because of inadequate care on the part of his mother. It was important that R should be adopted as soon as possible.

As to contact, the judge had accepted that only in exceptional circumstances should contact between a mother and a young baby be prevented. However, he had taken the view that occasional contact in secure accommodation, as had been proposed, could prove distressing both for M and for R and that there was a clear risk of physical harm to R.

He had said: "... it is R's welfare which must be my paramount consideration. He is the child and in this context M is the parent. Contact is the right of the child, not of the parent. Where conflict arises, his welfare ... takes priority over M's welfare."

The judge accordingly made, *inter alia*, an order under section 34(4) terminating contact between R and M, save for contact by way of exchange of information only twice a year.

The Court of Appeal had taken the view that the question of contact with M related to the upbringing of R and that the question of contact with R related to the upbringing of M. It was impossible to give each of them paramountcy and the Act did not indicate that, where parent and child were both children, the latter's interests were to prevail.

On the contrary, while the welfare of M and R taken together was to be considered as paramount to the interests of any adults concerned in their lives, as between themselves the court had to approach the question of their welfare without giving one priority over the other.

The Court of Appeal conducted that balancing exercise. Lord Justice Balcombe had said: "it is ... premature to give the council leave to terminate contact ... contact may be positively beneficial to M and, provided that it is adequately monitored, should not, in the short term at least, be detrimental to R. The position will have to be reassessed when a suitable long-term placement for R is found." The judge's order was set aside.

It was clear that the draftsman of the statute had not specifically provided for the situation where both parent and child were children within the meaning of the Act. Although wider arguments had been addressed on the basis of other sections of the Act, the problem was resolved on an analysis of section 34.

The starting point was that by subsection (1) the appropriate authority had to allow the child in care reasonable contact with four categories of person: a parent, a guardian, a person in whose favour a residence order was in force, or a person who had the care of the child immediately before the care order in question was made.

If there was an issue about contact any one of those persons could apply to the court under subsection (3) for a contact order "between the child and that person". For that purpose, "the child" was the child in care in respect of whom an order was sought by one of the four categories of person. That child was the subject matter of the application. The question to be determined related to that child's upbringing and it was that child's welfare which had to be the court's paramount consideration.

The fact that the parent was also a child did not mean that both parent's and child's welfare were paramount and that each had to be balanced against the other. Under subsection (3) the question to be determined did not relate to the applicant's upbringing, even if the applicant was a child.

By subsection (2): "On an application made by the authority or the child, the court may make such order as it considers appropriate with respect to the contact which is to be allowed between the child and any named person".

In that application the child in care might apply and, if that child was the applicant, it was that child's welfare which was directly involved and which was paramount even if the other named person was also a child. The welfare of any other named person, even if a child, was not also paramount so as to require a balancing exercise to be carried out.

It had to be doubted whether a parent was ever intended to be included within the category of "child" in section 34(2) even if the parent was also a child. In any event, an order under subsection (2) did not legally oblige the person named to have contact with the child, even if such contact would normally take place where such an order was made.

By subsection (4) the court could make an order, if the child in care or the authority made an application, authorising the authority to refuse to allow contact between the child in care and a person belonging to one of the four categories of person in subsection (1) who was named in the order. Thus the court might authorise refusal to allow contact between the child in care and the parent.

The child in respect of whose upbringing a question was to be determined by the court was the son or daughter of the parent named in the order and it was that child's welfare which was to be paramount. The fact that the parent was also a child did not require the balancing exercise to be carried out since no question was to be determined as to the parent's upbringing.

When the court decided that it was appropriate to authorise the authority to refuse contact under subsection (4) with R, the child in care whose welfare for that purpose was paramount, it was bound to refuse the application by M under subsection (3) when a question arose as to R's upbringing and when his welfare was paramount.

And it was of no value to make an order under subsection (2) for M to have contact with R when contact between R and M could be refused by the authority as a result of the court's order under subsection (4).

It had not therefore been necessary for any balancing exercise to be performed. The judge had been right to consider that R's welfare was the court's paramount consideration and it was impossible to say that he erred in the exercise of his discretion in prohibiting contact.

Lord Jauncey, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Woolf agreed.

Solicitors: Barbara Carter, Birmingham; Mr S. A. Dobson, Birmingham; Young & Lee, Birmingham; Plunkett Lohmus & Co, Birmingham; Adie Evans & Warner, Birmingham.

No exemption from capital duty

Guinness plc v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Mr Justice Rattee

[Judgment December 10]

Apportionment procedures inserted into the contract under which Guinness plc in 1986 acquired the entire share capital of Distillers Company plc did not have the effect of exempting the transaction from the capital duty then payable under section 47 of the Finance Act 1973.

The terms of Guinness' offer document did not enable it to establish its claim to the exemption contained in paragraph 10(2)(b) of Schedule 19 to the Act because the consideration to be given for Distillers' shares included a possible cash element in excess of the maximum 10 per cent of the nominal value of shares included in the consideration.

Mr Justice Rattee so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing an appeal by Guinness against an assessment by the Inland Revenue Commissioners to duty of £20,766,434 made in June 1991 in consequence of its acquisition of the issued share capital of Distillers.

The provisions for payment of capital duty were repealed by section 141 of the Finance Act 1988.

Mr Andrew Park QC for Guinness; Mr Christopher McCall, QC and Mr Nicholas Warren, QC, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE RATTEE said that Guinness candidly accepted that the provisions in its offer document for the allocation of the appropriate consideration of stock units, preference shares and cash to which the Distillers' shareholders were entitled had been made as an attempt to gain the benefit of the exemption from the duty in paragraph 10 of Schedule 19 to the 1973 Act.

Mr Park did not seriously resist the proposition that a take-over by a company in the position of Guinness of a company in the position of Distillers by purchasing its shares for a mixed consideration of shares and cash was intended to be made chargeable to duty on the issue of new shares in the acquiring company.

But Mr Park claimed an escape from such liability because of the machinery of allocation provided for in the offer document of the shares in Distillers acquired between stock and shares in Guinness on the one hand and cash on the other.

The fact that the apportionment procedure was included in the offer document solely for the purpose of bringing the transaction within the exemption was no bar to Guinness' argument if it was otherwise sound. But it was not.

The contract constituted by the offer and acceptance was an indivisible contract for the transfer of all the Distillers' shares held by the accepting shareholders for a composite consideration consisting of new stock units and cash, except where an accepting shareholder exercised an option to take all cash or all stock units or a mixture of stock units and preference shares.

The contract, notwithstanding the apportionment provisions, remained a contract to acquire all the accepting shareholders' Distillers' shares for the consideration expressed in the offer document.

It followed that Guinness had failed to discharge the burden on it of satisfying the condition for exemption required by paragraph 10(2)(b) of Schedule 19.

For the consideration given by Guinness for all the shares acquired from a Distillers' shareholder who had not elected to take all stock or preference shares was a consideration which included a cash element in excess of the maximum 10 pr cent of the nominal value of shares included in the consideration permitted in paragraph 10(2)(b).

Solicitors: Freshfields; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Home Office can be liable for official misfeasance

Racz v Home Office

Before Lord Templeman, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Mustill

[Speeches December 16]

The Home Office was capable of being vicariously liable for acts of prison officers amounting to misfeasance in public office. The plaintiff's claim should be tried by judge alone.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Steven Racz, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Kennedy) (*The Times* December 17, 1992) in so far as it related to the striking out of paragraph 6 of the plaintiff's statement of claim against the Home Office alleging misfeasance. The Court of Appeal had dismissed an appeal by the plaintiff from Mrs Justice Ebsworth (*The Times* November 25, 1992), who had struck out paragraph 6 on the Home Office's application and rejected the plaintiff's submission that his action should be tried by a jury.

Mr David Harris, QC and Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiff; Mr Guy Sankey, QC and Mr Neil Garnham for the Home Office.

LORD JAUNCEY said that on March 9, 1988, the plaintiff had been a remand prisoner in Armley Prison, Leeds. On March 8, 1991, he had issued a writ against the Home Office claiming damages and aggravated and exemplary damages in respect of events occurring in the prison on March 9 to 11.

In his amended statement of claim, he alleged that he had suffered ill-treatment at the hands of prison officers and claimed damages under three heads: assault and battery, negligence, and misfeasance in public office.

He averred that the Home Office was the department of state responsible for prisons and the actions of its servants working therein. He described how he had been assaulted by certain prison officers and removed from an open ward in the hospital wing of the prison to a strip cell where his clothes had been forcibly removed.

Paragraph 6 stated: "... the officers who ordered the plaintiff's removal/location in the strip cell knew they had no lawful power ... for such removal/location and/or were motivated by malice and their actions thereby amounted to misfeasance in public office."

The Court of Appeal had ordered paragraph 6 to be struck out on the ground that in law the Home Office could not be vicariously liable for misfeasance in public office by the officers. They had reached that conclusion because of the decision of the House of Lords in *Weldon v Home Office* (*The Times* July 25, 1991; [1992] 1 AC 58), in particular certain observations of Lord Bridge of Harwich.

Having looked at *Weldon* in some detail, his Lordship concluded that it did not support the proposition that the Home Office could not be vicariously liable for acts of prison officers that amounted to misfeasance in public office.

Striking out paragraph 6 could only be justified if the inevitable result of proof of the averments in it was that the unauthorised acts of the prison officers had been so unconnected with their authorised duties as to be quite independent of and outside those duties.

Mr Harris had pointed out that it was likely to be a question of fact and degree whether the officers had been engaged in a misguided and unauthorised method of performing their authorised duties or in what had been tantamount to an unlawful frolic of their own.

There was substance in that submission. It was impossible to determine the precise character of the officers' actions on which would depend the liability or otherwise of the Home Office for their acting from a perusal of the pleadings alone.

That could only be done after the facts had been established. There being no compulsion to strike out paragraph 6 by reason of *Weldon*, the case had to go to trial on the whole pleadings as they stood.

Trial by jury in civil cases was governed by section 69 of the Supreme Court Act 1981:

"(1) Where ... the court is satisfied that there is in issue ... (b) a claim in respect of libel, slander, malicious prosecution or false imprisonment ... the action shall be tried with a jury ...

"(3) An action to be tried in the Queen's Bench Division which does not by virtue of subsection (1) fall to be tried with a jury shall be tried without a jury unless the court in its discretion orders it to be tried with a jury."

In *Goldsmith v Pressdram Ltd (Note)* ([1988] 1 WLR 64, 76) Lord Justice Slade had said: "... Parliament, in enacting section 69(3), has indicated its clear intention that trial without a jury should be the normal mode of trial for any Queen's Bench action which does not, by virtue of subsection (1), fall to be tried with a jury."

Mr Harris, while accepting that section 69(3) created a presumption against jury trial, argued that issues, including the question of exemplary damages, that were likely to arise when the case went to trial were so closely related to those that would arise in a case of false imprisonment, where a right to jury trial existed, that the presumption should be rebutted and discretion exercised in favour of allowing a jury trial.

His Lordship could see no logical connection between, say, libel and false imprisonment, nor any common factor in slander and malicious prosecution.

Each tort was capable of being committed by a private individual or by an official of the state, and all in very different circumstances.

One was left with a strong impression that Parliament had retained the four torts in section 69(1)(b) for historical rather than any logical reason, from which it followed that the similarity to any of those of some other tort was not a factor that had to be taken into account by the court in determining, in the exercise of its discretion, whether it was appropriate to rebut the presumption in section 69(3).

Lord Justice Neill had considered whether that was an exceptional case where jury trial should be ordered. He had taken into account the fact that there was a claim for exemplary damages. He had considered that a jury might appropriately be called on to decide whether an individual had been subjected to arbitrary or oppressive actions by servants of government.

On the other hand, he had referred to the facts that the action neither raised matters of constitutional importance nor involved the actions of senior officials and that the injuries alleged, although unpleasant, were not grave.

His Lordship did not think that the manner in which Lord Justice Neill had exercised his discretion could be faulted. He had had regard to all the factors that Mr Harris said should have been taken into account and had not had regard to any factors that he should not have done.

Lord Justice Beldam had also had regard to the possible lengthening of the trial with its consequent expense and the possibility of the jury disagreeing. His approach had been slightly different from that of Lord Justice Neill, but there was no justification for criticising the manner in which the Court of Appeal as a whole has exercised its jurisdiction.

His Lordship would have come to the same conclusion. The apparent uncertainty as to the precise ambit of the tort of misfeasance in public office, with the consequent likelihood of prolonged legal argument in the absence of the jury, would have been a further factor militating against trial by jury.

Lord Templeman, Lord Goff, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Mustill agreed.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Alternative dispute resolution

Practice Statement (Commercial Court: Alternative dispute resolution)

While the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division remained the primary forum for resolving commercial cases, parties to the proceedings should in appropriate cases be encouraged to consider using alternative dispute resolution as an additional possible means of resolving their disputes.

Mr Justice Cresswell, sitting in the Commercial Court, so stated in a practice statement on December 10.

MR JUSTICE CRESSWELL said that while emphasising the primary role of the Commercial Court as a forum for deciding commercial cases, the judges of the court wished to encourage parties to consider the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), such as mediation and conciliation, as a possible additional means of resolving issues or disputes.

The judges would not act as mediators or be involved in any ADR process but would in appropriate cases invite parties to consider whether their case, or certain issues in their cases, could be resolved by means of ADR.

By way of example only, ADR might be tried where the costs of litigation were likely to be wholly disproportionate to the amount at stake.

The Clerk to the Commercial Court would keep a list of individuals and bodies that offered mediation, conciliation and other ADR services.

It would be inappropriate for the Commercial Court to recommend any individual or organisation for that purpose. The list would also include individuals and bodies that offered arbitration services.

This practice statement would be drawn to the attention of all persons commencing proceedings in the commercial list.

Appendix IV (information for the summons for directions) and appendix VI (pre-trial check list) to the *Guide to Commercial Court Practice* (Appendix A to Order 72 of the Rules of the Supreme Court) would be amended to include additional questions to ensure that legal advisers in all cases considered with their clients and other parties concerned the possibility of attempting to resolve the particular dispute or particular issues by mediation, conciliation or otherwise.

While the Commercial Court would remain the appropriate forum for deciding most disputes in its list, legal advisers should ensure that parties were fully informed as to the most cost effective means of resolving the particular dispute.

Arbitration dismissal for retrospective delay

Yamashita-Shinnihon Steamship Co Ltd v L'Office Cherifien des Phosphates and Unitramp SA

Before Lord Templeman, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Mustill

[Speeches December 16]

An arbitrator had power under section 13A of the Arbitration Act 1950, as inserted by section 102 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, to dismiss a claim on the ground of inordinate and inexcusable delay occurring before the section came into force on January 1, 1992.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the charterers, Yamashita-Shinnihon Steamship Co Ltd, respondents in arbitration proceedings, from the Court of Appeal (Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Kennedy) (*The Times* April 16, 1993; [1993] 3 WLR 266) who by a majority, Lord Justice Beldam dissenting, had dismissed the charterers' appeal from Mr Justice Saville.

The judge had allowed an appeal by the owners, L'Office Cherifien des Phosphates and Unitramp SA, whose claim in the arbitration had been struck out by the arbitrator. Mr Michael Baker-Harber, for inordinate and inexcusable delay prior to January 1, 1992, in prosecuting the reference.

The arbitrator, who held that the section applied retrospectively, did not find the owners guilty of delay after January 1, 1992.

Mr Richard Aikens, QC and Mr Edmund Broadbent for the charterers: Mr Jonathan Gaisman and Mr Alistair Schaff for the owners.

LORD MUSTILL said that the shipowners' complaint was that the cargo holds of their vessel Boutrau had suffered corrosion damage while carrying sulphur for the charterers in 1984 due to excess moisture caused by watering of the cargo at Vancouver.

Points of claim and defence had been delivered in 1986, but nothing much further had happened until April 1991 when the owners' new solicitors had written to the arbitrator proposing a preliminary issue on the meaning of a clause in the charterparty.

So far, the story would have caused regret but not undue surprise to anyone practising arbitration during the concluding decades of the twentieth century.

What would, however, have caused great remark was that on January 13, 1992, the charterers had applied to the arbitrator to dismiss the owners' claim for want of prosecution. Such an application, if made during the 1970s or 1980s, would have been rejected out of hand.

The grounds stated in the award were that the owners had been guilty of inordinate and inexcusable delay in advancing the arbitration which had created a real risk of an unfair resolution of the dispute.

If these had been proceedings in the High Court the arbitrator's decision to dismiss the claim would have been unassailable.

The important question, however, was whether the arbitrator had been entitled to take into account any part of the delay that had preceded the coming into force of the new powers, for if he had not been, it was plain that the award could not be sustained.

Section 13A, as inserted, provided: "(1) Unless a contrary intention is expressed in the arbitration agreement, the arbitrator or umpire shall have power to make an award dismissing any claim in a dispute referred to him if it appears to him ... (a) that there has been inordinate and inexcusable delay on the part of the claimant in pursuing the claim: and (b) that the delay — (i) will give rise to a substantial risk that it is not possible to have a fair resolution of the issues in that claim: or (ii) has caused, or is likely to cause or to have caused, serious prejudice to the respondent..."

The arbitrator had taken the view that there was a short answer to the problem. He had said: "... as from January 1, 1992, I am bound to read [the 1950 Act] as if section 13A was incorporated into it. That ... is the clearest possible indication that the legislation has retrospective effect. It requires a tribunal ... to proceed on the basis that the power has been there since 1950."

His Lordship could not accept that. The legislative technique of adding a new section or sections to an existing statute was more common than in the past. The purpose seemed to be to make complex legislation more manageable, so that the reader need do no more than obtain a copy of the Act as amended.

It did not at all follow that all parts of the composite Act were to be treated as having come into force simultaneously with the original Act.

The real contest on the present appeal was not whether section 13A was retrospective in the ordinary sense but whether a provision that was undeniably prospective in the conferring of powers enabled those powers to be exercised by reference to acts or omissions that had taken place before the new section had come into force.

It would be impossible to doubt that the court was required to approach questions of statutory interpretation with a disposition, and in some cases a very strong disposition to assume that a statute was not intended to have retrospective effect.

The basis of the rule, however, was no more than simple fairness, which ought to be the basis of every legal rule. Precisely how the single question of fairness would be answered in respect of a particular statute would depend on the interaction of several factors, capable of varying from case to case.

All had to be weighed together to provide a direct answer to the question whether the consequences of reading the statute with the suggested degree of retrospectivity were so unfair that the words used by Parliament could not have been intended to mean what they might appear to say.

Even if read in isolation, the words in section 13A "there has been inordinate and inexcusable delay" would be sufficient, in the context of section 13A as a whole, to demonstrate that the delay encompassed all the delay that had caused the substantial risk of unfairness.

If there were any doubt about that, the loud and prolonged chorus of complaints about the disconformity between practices in arbitration and in the High Court, and the increasing impatience for something to be done about it, showed quite clearly that section 13A had been intended to bite in full from the outset.

His Lordship found the meaning of section 13A sufficiently clear to persuade him that in the interests of reform Parliament had been willing to tolerate the very qualified kind of hardship implied in giving the legislation a partially retrospective effect.

He agreed with Lord Justice Beldam that the arbitrator had had the powers that he had purported to exercise.

Lord Templeman delivered an opinion agreeing with Lord Mustill and Lord Goff, Lord Jauncey and Lord Browne-Wilkinson agreed.

Solicitors: Ince & Co; Herbert Smith.

Corrections

In *Siu and Another v Eastern Insurance Co Ltd* (*The Times* December 16) the solicitors for the plaintiffs were Edwin Coe, who took over the case from Philip Conway Thomas.

In *Cambridge Water Company v Eastern Counties Leather* (*The Times* December 10) Mr Ian Shiels appeared as second junior for Eastern Counties Leather.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

BRISTOL AIR COMPRESSORS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the Avon Gorge Hotel, Sion Hill, Bristol on 20th December 1993 at 11.30 am for the purpose of having a full statement of the position of the Company's affairs, together with a list of the creditors of the company and the estimated amount of their claims, laid before them, and for the purpose, if thought fit, of nominating a Liquidator and/or appointing a Liquidation Committee. Proxies to be used at the Meeting must be lodged with the Company at its Registered Office at 1 Tweedsmuir Close, Oakwood, Derby, DE21 2JL not later than 12.00 noon on the 17th December 1993.
PETER A H POWELL of Peter Powell Chartered Accountants, 1 Tweedsmuir Close, Oakwood, Derby, DE21 2JL is a person qualified to act as an Insolvency practitioner in relation to the Company who will, during the period before the day of the meeting, furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that, for the purpose of voting, Secured Creditors must (unless they surrender their security) lodge at the said Registered Office of the Company before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of their Security, the date when it was given, and the value at which it is assessed.
Dated this 26th day of November 1993
By Order of the Board of Directors
P.C. JONES, Director

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
DICK SMITH (MANUFACTURING) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at 20 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7BH on the 30th day of December 1993 at 12.15 in the afternoon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
On the two business days preceding the day of the meeting a list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge, at BDO Binder Hamlyn, 20 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7BH.
DATED this 14th day December 1993
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Secretary - N. JOHNSON

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
KAAL ELECTRICS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 23rd December 1993 at 4, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Steven George Taylor MBA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 6th day of December 1993.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
G. KAAL
DIRECTOR

S & R Smith & Son Transport Limited
Registered Number: 2410184
Nature of Business: Road Hauliers
Trade Classification: Division 6, Trade Class 28
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receivers: 13 December 1993
Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: National Westminster Bank plc
Name of persons appointed: Lee Anthony Manning and Simon Vincent Freakley both of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, (Office Holder Nos: 6477 and 8291)

Notice of Appointment of Liquidator
Voluntary Winding Up creditors
Pursuant to section 109 of the Insolvency Act 1986
Name of Company: K.M. Construction Co. Limited
Nature of business: Builders & Building Contractors
Address of registered office: Tyrwit House, 185-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1JQ
Type of Liquidation: Creditors Voluntary
Liquidator(s): Richard Andrew Segal, A Segal & Co, Tyrwit House, 185-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1JQ
Office Holder No(s): 002685
Date of appointment: 15 December 1993
By whom appointed: The Members & Creditors
Date: 16 December 1993

The Insolvency Rules 1986
(A) SWINTON MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS LIMITED
(B) WORSLEY INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(C) WORSLEY LEASING COMPANY LIMITED
(D) CHARLES HOWARTH AND SONS LIMITED
(E) A1 APPLIANCE SERVICE LIMITED
Registered Numbers: (A) 1930897 (B) 2076473 (C) 778122 (D) 380280 (E) 643290. Trading Names (A) Swinton Management Consultants Limited. (B) Worsley Investment Company Limited. (C) Worsley Leasing Company Limited. (D) Charles Howarth & Sons Limited. (E) A1 Appliance Service Limited. Nature of Businesses: (A) Financial Advisory and Investment Company. (B) Finance and Investment Company. (C) General & Commercial Leasing Company. (D) Property Investment. (E) Manufacturers & Dealers in Radio Television Equipment. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receivers: 14th December 1993. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: Kevin Murphy, 137 Manaia Grove, Dublin 16, Republic of Ireland. Joint Administrative Receivers: David Emanuel Morton Mond & David Bottogley, (Office Holder Numbers: 0/002540/01 and 0/005988/01) of Hodgsons, Chartered Accountants, George House, 49 George Street, Manchester, M1 4HF.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 008904 of 1993
IN THE MATTER OF PREMIER HEALTH GROUP Plc
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 17th November 1993 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £21,026,029.2585 to £4,232,000 and the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 7th December 1993.
Dated this 13th day of December 1993.
HERBERT SMITH, Exchange House, Exchange Square, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2HS
Tel: 071-374-8000
Ref: 72/C262
Solicitors for the above-named Company

BUSINESS FOR SALE

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British Coal invites offers for licensing the working of coal and the use of associated facilities at each of the collieries named below. Decisions by British Coal to grant a licence in respect of each colliery will be made on a colliery by colliery basis. Specific proposals for non-mining uses will also be given due consideration.

The collieries for which separate offers are invited are Bentley, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire; Calverton, Nottingham; Rufford, Rainworth, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire; and Wearmouth, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

Expressions of interest must be received by January 4, 1994, either in writing to:

British Coal Corporation,
Licensing of Closed Collieries,
Eastwood Hall, Eastwood,
Nottinghamshire NG16 3EB.
Fax No: 0773 532709

or by telephone on the following numbers:

Bentley Colliery	0773 532711
Calverton Colliery	0773 532710
Rufford Colliery	0773 532710
Wearmouth Colliery	0773 532711

and subsequently confirmed in writing.

British Coal reserves the right not to consider expressions of interest received after January 4, 1994. Parties who have expressed an interest in making an offer in respect of a particular colliery will be provided with a Preliminary Information Pack containing outline information on the colliery, an application form, a letter of undertaking and the terms of a £10,000 security deposit/bond, together with details of the licensing process and timetable.

Detailed information on the relevant colliery and draft tender documentation will subsequently be provided to any party which satisfies the requirements specified in the Preliminary Information Pack, which include entering into the letter of undertaking and the provision of the security deposit/bond.

The receipt of an offer will not create any obligation or commitment on the part of British Coal to enter into any negotiations or to grant a licence.

Enquiries about the procedures set out in this advertisement should be made in writing to the above address or by telephone on the numbers listed opposite.

British COAL

هكذا من الأصل



POP page 36
Evan Dando and The Lemonheads recorded one of Caitlin Moran's albums of the year

ARTS

POP page 37
Chanteuse Patricia Kaas is a major star in her native France, but how will she fare overseas?



Nice book if you can get it

Benny Green celebrates the unfailing wit of Ira Gershwin, whose complete song lyrics are published next month



They got rhythm: the original 1930 chorus line for George and Ira Gershwin's *Girl Crazy*. A much-altered version, *Crazy for You*, is currently playing in London

Gifted lyricists, like gifted writers of other kinds, cannot help putting themselves into their work. Al Dubin, whose work enjoyed a spectacular revival with *42nd Street*, was the streetwise cynic among songwriters, a city slicker whose worldly experience comes through in songs like "Shuffle off to Buffalo", "Lulu's Back in Town", and most famous of all, "Lullaby of Broadway", which he wrote to ease the withdrawal pains of his partner Harry Warren, homesick under the Pacific sunlight of Beverly Hills. It was Dubin again who made a coded confessional regarding his private excesses with "You're Getting to Be a Habit With Me".

Lorenz Hart, the eternal star of the campus, was the knowledgable one whose erudition was married to a brilliant sense of humour. Both the rhyming of patricide and fratricide with "one night I stabbed him by my mattress-side", and the tender sentiments of "My Funny Valentine" lend weight to the theory that Hart inherited something from his ancestor, Heinrich Heine.

Cole Porter, born into millions, wrote with an unmistakable gold-plated detachment, while Irving Berlin, who moved from beggary to opulence, wrote for the ordinary people. It has been said, and rightly, that while Porter knew how to talk to waiters, Berlin was one.

There have been others. Johnny Mercer's poesy reflects his Deep South childhood. Another rustic, Hoagy Carmichael, wrote of birds and animals we have never seen. And there was Howard Dietz, who once summed up the plot of *Hamlet* with:

... where a ghost and a
prince meet,
and everyone ends as
mincemeat.

> 'Ira was ever eager to say that it was George who had genius'

And it is worth remembering that George Gershwin numbered among his favourite lyricists Noel Coward. Nor should we forget P.G. Wodehouse — "whose song lyrics," wrote Alan Lerner, "inaugurated the modern American musical".

In this pantheon, what place does Ira Gershwin occupy? Probably somewhere between Porter's elegance and Hart's ingenuity, although it must be said that Ira was a far gentler creature than any of his rivals. He was also an essentially humble man, a paragon of modesty ever eager to point out that it was brother George who had the genius.

They made a stark contrast. George was a dazzler, an extrovert, a ladies' man, a snappy dresser who took a childlike delight in his own pearls of musical wisdom. Ira, by contrast, was bookish, retiring, unenergetic, a dedicated Anglophile who steeped himself in English Literature and spent a long life marvelling at the apparently endless inventiveness of his idol, W.S. Gilbert.

The other object of his admiration was another Englishman, Wodehouse, a lifelong friend and sometime partner. In a letter to me dated 1962, Ira wrote: "I'm with you a hundred percent that Wodehouse's talent in this field has never been fully recognised. So far as I'm concerned, no one wrote more charming lyrics than he in the period from just before World War I to the early 1920s. Certainly I admired him greatly."

This mutual admiration society was to bear exotic fruits just before the death of George. The screen adaptation of Wodehouse's novel, *A Damsel in Distress*, including one song, "Stiff Upper Lip", which Ira, on his own confession, wrote as a tribute to Wodehouse, incorporating Wodehousean signs like:

Stiff upper lip, stout fella!
Carry on old fluff.
Chin up! Keep muddling
through.
Stiff upper lip, stout fella!
When the going's rough.
Pip-pip to old man Trouble and
a toodle-oo too.

So that there should be no mistake about this tribute, Ira gives as the setting for another song in the picture: "Sung on the downs of Totleigh Castle, located in Upper Pelham-Grenville, Wodehouse, England".

Ira became his brother's collaborator almost unintentionally. His first published song came about through his father's habit of starting a succession of wildly speculative business ventures which followed each other into bankruptcy. One of these disasters was a Turkish Baths at which nobody ever came to bathe. Ira, whose job it was to sell tickets, whiled away the empty hours by writing his first published song.

It began as an idle rhyme, "The Real American Folk Song". George was so taken by it that he set it to music and it had a brief life in a Broadway revue. The date was 1918, and although it was another six years before the brothers finally struck the alliance which was broken only by George's death, both of them sensed that each was perfect for the other. The discovery was especially sweet for George who had been working with several writers, and now realised that the best was his own brother.

In their first full-scale Broadway show, the brothers included one of the great popular songs of the century, "The Man I Love". In the new volume of Ira's collected lyrics, the song is prefaced by Ira's witty essay describing the extraordinary rejections suffered by the song (it never did reach the Broadway stage), and the dramatic intercession of George's friend, Edwina Mountbatten, which finally establish the song as a classic.

The Gershwins were especially happy with their first great success, *Lady Be Good*, because the songs were written for Fred and Adele Astaire. Fred had first met the family when George was a teenage prodigy working as a songplugger. They idly agreed that one day ... well, the day arrived with *Lady Be Good*, and some of the best songs of Fred's career were to follow, first on Broadway with "Fascinating Rhythm", "S'Wonderful" and "How Long Has This Been Going On", later in Hollywood with "A Foggy Day", "They All Laughed" and "They Can't Take That Away From Me".

After George's sudden death in 1937, Ira rusticated for four years, and never quite resumed his full career, although there were still classics to come. His first major project after George's death was with Kurt Weill in 1941, the psychiatric potboiler *Lady in the Dark*, whose high point was the exquisite "My Ship". Three years later Ira signed up with the old family friend, Jerome Kern, to do the songs for Gene Kelly and Rita Hayworth in *Cover Girl*. Ira's account of how he struggled to come to terms with the big ballad is worth the price of the book alone.

The song which eventually emerged was "Long Ago and Far Away". Here I can add a tiny fact which Robert Kimball, the editor and annotator of this wonderful volume, has missed. Ira told me that after writing five so-so versions of his lyric, he turned in desperation to a book by the naturalist W.H. Hudson, inverted the book's title, *Far Away and Long Ago*, and was suddenly at ease with the song.

There followed a string of shows with various writers, and one Hollywood score with Harry Warren, *The Barkleys of Broadway*, which included the unjustly neglected love song for Astaire, "You'd Be Hard To Replace". The oddest of these later works was certainly *The Shocking Miss Pilgrim* in 1947. George's notebooks were ransacked and pearls emerged, including one of the great Gershwin love songs, "For You, For Me, For Evermore".

There are dozens of incidental delights in Ira's lifework, not least of which is the wartime addendum he wrote to Noel Coward's "Don't Let's Be Beastly to the Germans":

Let our policy be "Deutschland
Uber Alles"-y.
We mustn't destroy the dreams
that they have spun.
Don't treat them too ignobally.
They just were thinking globally.
So why be provincial to the Hun?

The Complete Lyrics is a volume without blemish. It contains over 700 lyrics, and long before the end the reader has fallen once again for this gentle, erudite, eminently civilised stylistic descendant of W.S. Gilbert. As a piece of book production it is sumptuous, the photographs are irresistible, and the scholarship displayed by Kimball immense. There is only one important omission, a paragraph written by Ira in retirement:

"Since most of the lyrics in this lodgment were arrived at by fitting words mosaically to music already composed, any resemblance to actual poetry, living or dead, is highly improbable."

Improbable perhaps, but not altogether impossible.

● The Complete Lyrics of Ira Gershwin *is published by Pavilion Books on January 20 (£25)*

THEATRE

Women on the way up

Playhouse Creatures
Lyric Studio, Hammersmith

DONALD COOPER



Career women: Fleur Bennett and Geraldine Fitzgerald

The Puritans closed the playhouses for 18 years — longer than Mao's cultural revolution — and though they reopened soon after Charles II's return in 1660, the public's taste had changed and playwrights soon accommodated themselves to the new fashion. The first English actresses were a part of the Restoration style, both consequence and harbinger, and April De Angelis's entertaining play for Sphinx Theatre Company follows the fortunes of five women as they exploit their new-found freedom of expression.

In earlier times the majority of women whose histories are remembered belonged to the higher classes. Now women from much less privileged beginnings could, if lucky as well as gutsy, hack out a career. Nell Gwyn, famously, from selling citrus fruit in Covent Garden became mistress to the king and the ancestress of a line of Dukes.

"It was a model cesspit," said gap-toothed Doll Common (Jean Marlow) as Fleur Bennett's charming Nell strolls on with a tray of oranges. And though these pretty stars of the stage achieved some command over their lives, it soon becomes clear that they did so at man's sufferance. Geraldine Fitzgerald's sparkling Rebecca Marshall falls foul of an earl and fades out of the picture, seemingly accused of witchcraft.

Nicola Grier's Elizabeth Farley satisfies her ambition to be driven to the secret stairway of Whitehall Palace but pregnancy ends her career. The author hints at a deeper play than the one she has given us when Grier speaks of vainly searching for those privileged stairs again.

Nell's story, from orange peel to strawberry leaves, expresses the upward journey, and Bennett's artless smiles and sauciness give a tremendous sense of the sex appeal that caught the king's eye. Her roguish delivery of an epilogue would have turned a Puritan impure. But a more interesting story is introduced with the character of Mary Betterton, wife of one of the finest actors of the period, and played by Frances Cuka, as a pouter pigeon in red velvet.

In fragments of contemporary productions we see her sport as an Amazon, feed asps as Cleopatra and suffer the sleep-walking torments of Lady Macbeth. She does the last so interestingly that it would be good to see her try the whole, though it might not be an interpretation in the modern fashion. Cuka has a good sense of comedy and the author gives her an unexpected regret for the days when, anonymously, she played the male roles of Iago and Prince Hal, characters more satisfyingly energetic than any heroine except the Scottish queen.

Annabel Lee's attractively simple set — red drapes, a chandelier, panels of scenery — adapts itself easily to events, off stage and on, and Sue Parrish's direction paces the merry and sad events ably until tension slackens near the end. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the details, and the pedant in me has to point out that Mrs Betterton actually survived Nell by a quarter of a century and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERT

Playing safe has its own dangers

LPO/Jansons
Festival Hall

This was a revealing concert. Mariss Jansons, upon whom has been heaped lavish and justified praise (not least from me) for his dynamic conducting of the Romantic and 20th-century orchestral repertoire, tackled Schubert's Overture in the Italian Style, Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto and Mozart's Symphony No 41 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra with rather less success than one might have expected.

Without the full complement of woodwind and brass (though with probably rather too many strings to balance what there was) the orchestra sounded not quite at home in this music. It has perhaps become used to safety in numbers.

Though at the end there were those in the audience who yelled and even stood up, for this listener the results achieved were ordinary and too polite by half. Jansons did not help himself by his tendency to adopt conservative speeds — the Menuetto of the Mozart was a notable casualty of caution, as Menuettos by Mozart so often are.

Not that there was any intrinsic lack of elegance in the phrasing — Jansons is far too instinctive a musician to let this kind of music interpret itself, and there were, for instance, some delicious curlicues that ended phrases in the symphony's Andante cantabile second movement.

But one looked in vain for the human side, for a spark of earthy humour in the finale of the Beethoven, for instance, for a really dashing cut and thrust in the thrilling contrapuntal tangles of the finale in the Mozart, or for well defined and contrasted woodwind colours (bassoons were the notable exception) throughout the evening.

Roger Norrington and the rest of them have shown that such music can take, indeed fundamentally thrives upon, exaggeration, not courtly politeness, and you do not necessarily need period-style instruments to pursue that ideal. It also needs an intimate touch that Jansons did not on this occasion find — difficult in this hall anyway.

In the Beethoven piano concerto the thoughtful soloist was Mikhail Rudy. He played, I noticed, with wrists hanging comparatively low, which lent the sound an intrinsic and pleasing sonority but sometimes denied the music a certain sparkle and fluidity.

In the first movement there was a moment of disagreement over exactly when the orchestra should take its cue from him, due mainly to Rudy's snatched ending of his own phrase, while in the finale he imposed a slower tempo for one episode which threatened to disrupt the balance of the whole. But the Largo had breadth and dignity and beauty in abundance, and was for me the most successful music-making of the evening.

STEPHEN PETTITT

ARTS BRIEFING

Choice endings

ALAN AYCKBOURN has hit France. His play *Intimate Exchanges* has been filmed by Alain Resnais, the director of *Last Year in Marienbad*. Ayckbourn's play consists of eight scenes exploring possible outcomes of a decision by a young woman in Yorkshire: will she or won't she light up her first cigarette of the day? So Resnais has called his two-part film *Smoking/No Smoking*. Around Paris, both parts are being shown simultaneously on two screens in the same cinema, so filmgoers can choose whether to see *Smoking*, a black comedy, or the more genial *No Smoking*.

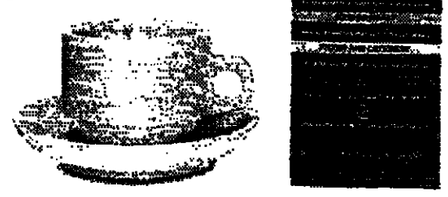
● PRELIMINARY plans for next year's Edinburgh Festival (August 14 to September 3) include visits by Australian Opera, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and the Mark Morris Dance Group, the last-named returning for the third year running. Also featured again will be the work of directors Robert Lepage and Peter Stein, both big hits in 1993.

Carousel cast

OPERA singer Shirley Verrett is poised to make her musical theatre debut in New York when the National Theatre production of *Carousel* starts performances on February 18 at the Lincoln Center. Verrett, 62, will play Nettie, the role taken at the National by Patricia Routledge, and can be expected to lead a rousing rendition of "You'll Never Walk Alone".

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LONDON

THE AMERICAN WAY: *Views on Use in Contemporary American Ceramics* is a show of 21 artists from the US and Canada celebrating a return to favour of functional ceramics — still witty and irreverent, using many references to the continent's history, with hints of the best of the sculptural style so popular in Europe in recent years.
Festival Hall Galleries, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Today until Jan 3. Then on tour. Free admission. [S]

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: An evening of musical drama is in store when cellist Steven Isserlis joins Richard Hickox as the soloist in John Tavener's haunting *The Protecting Veil*. Holst's mighty *The Planets* completes the programme.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891). Sunday, 7.30pm. [S]

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA: This weekend is the highlight of the year for the children of the orchestra, all 14 years old or under. There will be evening performances of Edward Gregson's *Contrasts*, which won them the Novello Youth Orchestra Award in Edinburgh earlier this year. The Sunday concert also includes Wagner, Sibelius, Holst and Rousseel.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Sunday 3pm (second orchestra) and 7.45pm (main orchestra). [S] **Grosvenor House Hotel**, Park Lane (071-370 4211 for Charity Ball ticket information). Saturday. [S]

ELSEWHERE

BRIGHTON: A Christmas celebration in Regency splendour as the Pavilion opens its music room for a series of open rehearsals and performances.
Royal Pavilion, (0273 603005). Today-Tues, 10am-5pm. Music sessions, 11am-12.30pm and 2-4pm.

CROSBY: A charity Christmas concert by the Merchant Taylors' Girls' Chamber Choir and the Crosby Capriol Singers and Orchestra, with James Nelson, tenor. Includes Britten's St Nicolas and carols. In aid of the Woodlands Hospice Macmillan Appeal.
Merchant Taylors' Girls' School. Tickets at the door and Pritchards Book Shop. Tomorrow, 7.15pm.

EDINBURGH: Just two more chances to see **Terry Neason**, the Scottish diva manqué, whose show is described as an inspired cocktail of songs, poetry, comedy and passion. Accompanied by Brian Prentice.
Theatre Workshop, Hamilton Place (031-226 5425). Tonight and tomorrow, 11pm.

LEEDS: Phyllida Lloyd directs **Opera North**'s new staging of Benjamin Britten's controversial-at-the-time coronation opera *Gloriana*. A brilliant combination of spectacle, ceremony and poignancy based on *Elizabeth and Essex*. Josephine Barstow sings the title role of Elizabeth I, Paul Daniel conducts.
Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459351/440971). Tomorrow and Tues, 7.15pm. [S]

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: The London Group (071-638 4141) . . . **British Museum:** Deities and Devotions: Hindu art; Kawanabe Kyosai (071-636 1555) . . . **Festival Hall:** Bruce Chatwin's Photographs (071-928 3002) . . . **National Portrait Gallery:** The Portrait Now; Thomas Eakins (071-306 0055) . . . **National Gallery:** Ken Kiff (071-839 3321) . . . **Royal Academy of Arts:** Drawings from the J. Paul Getty Museum (071-439 7438) . . . **Serpentine:** Richard Wentworth (071-402 6075) . . . **Tate:** Ben Nicholson; Turner's Vignettes (071-887 8008) . . . **Victoria & Albert:** Gates of Mystery: Russian icons; 150 Years of the Christmas Card (071-938 8500).

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Pop lives, and here's the proof



Caitlin Moran
makes her pick of the best albums in a good year for new sounds



Suede, and suave with it: their new single, "Stay Together", dwarfs everything they have recorded so far

It's that time of the year when small yet vicious fights break out by the bar at gigs, and music journalists are horsewhipped on the steps of their club and called "cad" to their faces — for lo, as surely as night follows day and defeat follows English football teams, December means End of Year Polls. "How could you not vote for the Bongwater album?" is the greeting from those previously regarded as friends. "I dunno; I just like Whitney Houston better. I like pop tunes, y'know?"

But hell; it's only rock 'n' roll, and at the risk of forfeiting promised pairs of Christmas socks with Snoopy motif embroidered on the side, and a basket of Body Shop bottles of gunk, I shall quickly whizz through the year and pick out the diamantés from the dirge.

Suede took rather casually to world domination when their eponymous LP (on the Nude label) hit the shops around March. Brett Anderson and Bernard Butler seem to have, rather wisely, sold their souls to Satan, in exchange for 12 impeccable pop songs — either stirring things up with extreme guitar abuse, or resting delicate tunes on a bed of strings and piano burbling. However, as their forthcoming single, the epic "Stay Together", dwarfs everything else they have recorded so far, just a medium-sized bouquet and the keys to the Bank of England seem necessary for now.

Dinosaur Jnr and **Nirvana** battled it out for the Rockingest Album of the Year Slot. Dinosaur weighed in with *Where You Been?* (WEA), an opus of scratchy distorted guitar, hidden pop genius and emotionally racked vocals. Nirvana's *In Utero* (Geffen) combated *Where You Been?* with, uh, scratchy distorted guitar, hidden pop genius and emotionally racked vocals. Nirvana win in the play-off by the thinnest of margins, by cunningly using their "Tallest Bass-Player in Rock" card.

Bjork's LP, *Debut* (One Little Indian) was possibly the most over-publicised event of the year, beating off wars, royal scandals and Kate Moss's protruding hip-bones by five magazine covers to one. Suffice it to say that she has a voice like ignited oxygen, looks like the Junior Princess of Neptune, and the next album will be like 12 birthdays rolled into one. Also looking like Alien Royalty and gasping notes of pure weirdness was Alison Shaw from **Cranes**. Co-writing her band's third album with her brother Jim, she produced *Forever* (Dedicated): a foreign land of racked cellos, drifting violins and twisted slivers of guitar. Cranes *are* the new Cure, and possibly one of the most avant-garde bands in Britain. Purchase and prosper.

American Music Club are a) badly named, b) all fairly bald, and c) the most critically acclaimed band in the world. Mark Eitzel writes songs that writhe with devotion and self-loathing, and hum with brutalised beauty. *Mercury* (Virgin) is the band's eighth album — another masterpiece lost in an industry of re-issues and "Best Of" boxes of horror. If honesty, craftsmanship and genius ever come back into fashion again . . .

> 'The Cranes are the new Cure. Purchase and prosper'

The mainstream equivalent to American Music Club, **Crowded House**, moseyed back into the charts with the deliriously pop-music flavoured *Together Alone* (EMI), a swirl of days spent on the beaches of New Zealand, and nights whiled away staring at the sky and wondering your head away. Neil Finn has had a hundredweight of critical rosettes pinned to his lapel this year, so I shall merely draw attention to his trousers (red, white stripe down the side, slight flare) and demand they gig in England again soon. Next week would be fine.

Belly's sherbet fizz and off-kilter knack for melody made *Star* (4AD) the album most students chose to lose their virginity to this year. The morning after, when everything had gone horribly, horribly wrong; and doom waxed furiously over the horizon, **Teenage Fanclub**'s warm, slouching *Thirteen* (Creation) inspired hope, cups of tea and much toast with Marmite. And when night-time struck again, and with it partying, **The Wonderstuff**'s *Construction for the Modern Idiot* (Polydor) was perfect for drinking lager and re-running chat-up lines to.

Brushed-steel pop with a melancholy edge has been big this year. **New Order** did their usual thing (profound genius) for the duration of *Republic* (London); managing to make people dance while their hearts bled. Evan Dando ran threads of wistfulness through **The Lemonheads**' *Come on Feel . . .* (eastwest); **Pet Shop Boys** continued to make perfection seem easy on *Very* (EMI); and 1994's Next Big Thing, **The Tindersticks**, released an eponymous debut double-album of sob-ridden glory. Not since The Smiths has wallowing been so much fun.

Of course, for straightforward, hedonistic, almost *stupidly* catchy guitar-pop, **Blur** were the people to go to. *Modern Life Is Rubbish* (EMI) seethes with bratty insolence, and the single, "Chemical World", with its jump-start guitars and shouty chorus, was the anthem of 1993's hazy festival weekends. While we are on the subject of chemical worlds, the magnificently woozy **Verve** are slowly becoming a Pink Floyd for the 1990s. *A Storm In Heaven*, (Hut) is basically ten variations on The Doors' "The End"; but on particular evenings that is exactly what the mood calls for.

And so to finish. **P.J. Harvey** crooned and roared and upped the ante for everyone on *Dry* (Virgin); **The Boo Radleys** turned into the pop My Bloody Valentine on the brilliant *Giant Steps* (Creation). **Curve** finally re-paid all the hype with the frighteningly futuristic *Cuckoo* (A&M) and, the profoundly obscure **Ed Kuepper**, who only I and his publicist seem to have heard of, released *Serene Machine* (Hot), his 16th album, which finally proved, for once and for all, that he is the Antipodean Neil Young. I have been carrying the Ed Kuepper torch for some time now, but while there's strength in these arms and power left in those batteries I shall continue, bravely, to weather the storms and vacuums of indifference. 1993 has been an incredible year. Don't *ever* let *anyone* tell you pop music is dead.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◧ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** Described as "indescribably anarchic" and likely to be so as Ken Campbell directs the excellent Kate McKenzie and the alarming Chris Lynam in the leads.
BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (071-223 2223) Tue-Sat 8pm; Sun 6pm Til Dec 23.

☐ **THE BFG:** Roald Dahl's Big Friendly Giant makes his now seasonally festive call on London.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon 7pm; Tue-Fri, 2pm and 7pm, Sat 11am, 2.30pm, 7pm.

■ **CAROUSEL:** Tuneful and cleverly set Rodgers and Hammerstein musical extravaganza.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 165mins. [S]

☐ **JANE EYRE:** Alexandra Mathie and Tim Pigott-Smith in the well-known romantic melodrama. Fay Weldon adapts, Helena Kaut-Howson directs.
Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat 3pm. [S]

◧ **FOREVER PLAID:** Genial and wittily performed homage to the four-part harmony groups of the 1950s.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri, Sat 8.30pm, mats Fri (half price), Sat 4pm.

◧ **ME AND MAMIE O'ROURKE:** Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders in a not altogether funny comedy.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Thurs 8pm; Fri, Sat 6pm and 8.45pm

◧ **MEDEA:** Jonathan Kent directs the magnificent Diana Rigg in Euripides's tragedy of a woman's revenge.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats. Sat 5.30pm.

☐ **MOONLIGHT:** Ian Holm and Anna Massey star in Pinter's play about a sour civil servant, unmourned by his family, raging against his approaching death
Comedy, Panton St, SW1 (071-867 1045) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

◧ **MR AND MRS NOBODY:** Opening night for Patricia Routledge and Clive Swift, keeping up appearances in Keith Waterhouse's adaptation of *Diary of a Nobody* and his own *Diary of Mrs Pooter*.
Greenwich, Croome Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755) Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. [S]

◧ **OLEANNA:** Power, politics and punishment at an American university. Great performances by David Suchet and Lia Williams in Mamet's play.
Duke of York's, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm. [S]

◧ **ONE MAN:** Electrifying performances by Steven Berkoff in three solo pieces: Poe's *Telltale Heart*; *Actor*; and *Dog*, his hilarious, chilling view of life as seen by a lager lout's rottweiler.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

◧ **PIAF:** Peter Hall directs Elaine Paige in Pam Gems' portrait of the great French Chanteuse.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed (without Paige) and Sat 3pm.

☐ **RELATIVE VALUES:** Susan Hampshire, Sara Crowe and Alison Fiske head a strong cast in Coward's snobbish but clever comedy. Tim Luscombe directs.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (071-836 8888) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. [S]

☐ **THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES:** Ian McDiarmid as Arnolphe and Emma Fielding his ward Agnes, lead a strong cast in Molière's affecting comedy.
Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm [S]

◧ **SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER:** Donald Sinden, Miriam Margolyes and David Essex in Peter Hall's revival of the evergreen Goldsmith comedy.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. [S]

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (071-867 1044) . . . ◧ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ■ **Cats:** New London (071-405 0072) . . . ◧ **Crazy for You:** Prince Edward (071-734 8951) . . . ◧ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Duchess (071-494 5070) . . . ◧ **Five Guys Named Moe:** Lyric (071-494 5045) . . . ■ **Grease:** Dominion (071-580 9845) . . . ◧ **Hot Stuff:** Cambridge (071-494 5040) . . . ■ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat:** Palladium (071-494 5037) . . . ■ **Les Misérables:** Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ◧ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) . . . ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) . . . ◧ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi Theatre (071-344 0055) . . . ☐ **Travels With My Aunt:** Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . . ☐ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre

NEW RELEASES

CINEMA PARADISO: THE SPECIAL EDITION (PG): Longer, inferior version of Guiseppe Tornatore's Oscar-winner about the life and loves of a Sicilian boy projectionist.
Metro (071-437 0757)

THE METEOR MAN (PG): Timid Washington teacher turns superhero and cleans up the community. Bland, dishevelled, well-meaning fantasy from writer-director-star Robert Townsend.
Electric [S] (071-792 2020)

◆ **ROBIN HOOD: MEN IN TIGHTS** (PG). Unfunny, outdated Sherwood Forest spoof from Mel Brooks, with Cary Elwes, Roger Rees, Richard Lewis.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914068) **UCI Whiteleys** [S] (071-792 3332)

AMERICAN HEART (15). Father and son hit the Seattle streets. Well-meaning social drama from director Martin Bell; with Jeff Bridges and Edward Furlong.
Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353)

◆ **DAVE** (15): The US President's lookalike takes over. Beguiling comic fantasy, with Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver. Ivan Reitman directs.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** [S] (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** [S] (071-792 3332) **Warner** [S] (071-437 4343)

◆ **DEMOLITION MAN** (15): Sylvester Stallone versus Wesley Snipes in 21st century L.A. Marco Brambilla's satirical, overblown action romp.
MGMs: Fulham Road [S] (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** [S] (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** [S] (071-792 3332) **Warner** [S] (071-437 4343)

◆ **ALADDIN** (U): Disney's brash Arabian cartoon does not match expectations, though Robin Williams' Genie is fun. Directors, John Musker, Ron Clements.
Barbican [S] (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914068) **UCI Whiteleys** [S] (071-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES** (PG): A new baby causes chaos in America's most macabre household. Overblown sequel, with good stretches. With Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston; director, Barry Sonnenfeld.
Empire (071-437 9999) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** [S] (071-434 0031) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** [S] (071-792 3332)

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◆ **THE PIANO** (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in mid-19th century New Zealand. With Holly Hunter, Sam Neill, Harvey Keitel.
Gate [S] (071-727 4043) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** [S] (071-435 3366) **Warner** [S] (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** [S] (071-792 3332)

RUBY IN PARADISE (15): Passive young woman (the striking Ashley Judd) finds her niche in Florida. Intimate, aggravating drama from Victor Nunez.
MGMs: Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148)

◆ **SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE** (PG). Meg Ryan makes a long-distance play for widower Tom Hanks. Smart but indulgent romantic comedy. Writer-director Nora Ephron.
MGMs: Baker Street (071-935 9772) **Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 8279) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914068) **West End** (0426 915574)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION
ANTIQUE PRINTS
flora, fauna, views
&
MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS
1228-1499
The Schuster Gallery
14 Maddox St. London W1R 9PL
Tel:071 491 2208 Fax:071 491 9672

BANKSIDE GALLERY, 48 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, London 071-928 7521. ART OFF THE WALLS - watercolours, prints & drawings from £50 to take away for Christmas. Dec 1-22, Tues-Fri 12-7, Sunday 1-5. Evening Music & Refreshments

LEFEVRE GALLERY 30 Bruton St, W1. 071-493 2107. Costume designs by EDWARD BURRA, 8-21 December Mon-Fri 10-5pm.

Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 10-6 daily. Closed 24, 25, 26 Dec Open New Year's Day. Recorded info 071 439 4997/7 FROM LEONARDO TO VAN GOGH: MASTER DRAWINGS FROM THE J.PAUL GETTY MUSEUM. Book tickets on (071 240 7200 (bkg fee)

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 836 3161 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tonight 7.00
DIE FLEDERMAUS
Tomor 4.30 LOHENGRIN

Royal Festival Hall
071 928 8800
ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET
THE NUTCRACKER
"Pure and simple magic"
Evening Standard
Opens Wed Dec 22
For 5 weeks only

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066/1911 Tickets avail on the day. Stand-by info 836 8603.
THE ROYAL BALLET Tonight 7.30, Tomor 1.00 The Nutcracker
THE ROYAL OPERA. Tomor 7.30 Tosca.

SADLERS WELLS rec cc 071 278 8916/cc 071 497 9977 (bkg fee)
8-18 DEC
Adventures in Motion Pictures
"A dazzlingly imaginative new version"S.Times
THE NUTCRACKER
FROM 21 DEC - 8 JAN
Black Light Theatre of Prague
PETER PAN
"Like magic come true"Times.

THEATRES

ADELPHI
"A genuine triumph" D. Mail
"Andrew Lloyd Webber's most persuasive Score" New Yorker
SUNSET BOULEVARD
"Oh what a glorious Sunset"D.Exp
"It out - Oklahomas 'Oklahoma!'" Wall St Journal
24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
CALL 071 344 0055 (bkg fee)
GROUP BKG 071 413 3302 (bkg fee)
NO BKG FEE FOR PERSONAL CALLERS AT THE ADELPHI BOX OFFICE
Recorded Information 071 379 8884
Mon-Sat 8.00 Mats Thu & Sat 3.00
EXTRA XMAS MATS DEC 21 & 24 AT 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO APRIL 94
QUEUE DAILY FOR RETURNS

ALBERY THEATRE 071 867 1115/1111cc or 24hrs/bkg fee 071 344 4444 Grps 071 867 1115 or 413 3321
"GIZZARDGULPING FAMILY FUN" Times
THE BFG
of Roald Dahl's whizzcracking story
SAVE £18 - ask box office for details
Most days 2 & 7pm. Sat 11am, 2.30 & 7pm.

ALDWYCH 071 836 6404/497 9977
Group Sales 071 930 6123
"UNMISSABLE" Time Out
"OUTSTANDING" D. Tel
The Royal National Theatre's multi award-winning production of J.B. Priestley's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"As concentrated a piece of theatrical perfection as you will find anywhere" Today
"I URGE YOU TO SEE IT" D.Mail
Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5/8.15 Wed mat 2.30
Now booking until March '94

AMBASSADORS 071 836 6111/1171 cc 497 9977/344 4444 (No b/fee)
EILEEN ATKINS PENELOPE WILTON
VITA AND VIRGINIA
"CUT-GLASS CLASS" Daily Mail
Tues-Sat 8.00 Wed Mats 2.30
Sat & 5pm Mats 5.30
MUST END SUNDAY

APOLLO 071 494 5070/071 344 4444/497 9977 (All 24hrs/No bkg fee) Groups 494 5454/413 3321
"THE BEST PARTY IN TOWN"D.Mi
FOREVER PLAID
Mums are Xmas Party Nights! Mulled wine & meet the cast!
Call 494-5070 for details
Mon-Thu eves 8, Fri & Sat 8pm+8.30
Fri 5pm all seats half price!

APOLLO VICTORIA SS cc 630 6262 Groups 828 6188/413 3321 cc 24hr 071 344 4444/497 9977
"Andrew LLoyd Webber's New production of
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail
Whats knuckle runs! 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £10.00 - £30.00
XMAS MATS DEC 23 & 24 AT 3

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE BO/CC 071 387 9629 From December 20
Daily at 3pm. Some morning perfs at 11.30am Please check with Box Office.
SOOTY AT CHRISTMAS
CALL 071-481 1920
To place your entertainment advert in THE TIMES

CAMBRIDGE WC2 BO/CC 071 494 5080/071 344 4444 Grps 071 413 3321
"A FANTASTIC 70'S MUSICAL. Abba, Glitter, Bowie & Queen meet the devil in this year's biggest cult hit musical" Capital Gold
* HOT STUFF *
"Truly roaring across the West End stage in a frenzy" Today
JAN SALE ALL SEATS £10
From Jan 3rd except Sat 8.30.
Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30
XMAS MAT DEC 24 AT 3.00
ALL SEATS £10.

COMEDY BO/CC 071 867 1045/071 867 1111/344 4444
IAN HOLM ANNA MASSEY
Evening Standard Actor of the Year in HAROLD PINTER'S
MOONLIGHT
" It moved me to tears. Go, and you will see a GREAT PLAY" D Mail "This play has everything going for it"F
LAST 3 WEEKS!
Mon-Sat 8 Mats Wed 3 Sat 5

CRITERION 839 4488 cc 344 4444
LOOKING THROUGH A GLASS ONION
JOHN LENNON
IN WORD & MUSIC
" The best sounds in town"
What's On
Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat 6.00 & 9.00

DOMINION Ticketlines 081 900 1957 071 580 9845/9562. Grps 071 636 0975 413 3321 / 386 4747
GREASE
Starring CRAIG McLACHLAN and DEBBIE GIBSON
"A monster hit" Daily Mirror
Eves 7.30pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
EXTRA XMAS MAT DEC 24 AT 2.00 NO EVE PERF

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 071 494 5001/344 4444/240 7200/379 9901 Grps 831 8625/494 5454
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS 5TH FABULOUS YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
EXTRA XMAS MATS DEC 20 & 24 AT 3.00
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs apply B.O.
FOR TELEPHONE POSTAL BOOKINGS/PERSONAL CALLERS
071 494 5060 BKG FEE

DUCHESS cc 071 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (bkg fee) 071-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 24 Dec 5pm Only
NOW IN ITS 3RD YEAR
"A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std
DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
"Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE 071 836 5122 cc 836 9837 24hrs/7 days 836 3464, 344 4444
DAVID SUCHET LIA WILLIAMS
OLEANNA
by David Mamet
Directed by Harold Pinter
"Riveting new play" D. Tel
Eves 7.30, Thur Mat 3, Sat Mat 4
No latecomers admitted

FORTUNE BO & CC 836 2238 CC 497 9977 (No fee) 344 4444 (24hrs/No fee) Grps 930 6123
JOHN NETTLETON
BRIAN DEACON
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"The most chilling and thrilling play for years"D Mail
Eves 8pm Mats Tue 3pm Sat 4pm
Now booking until March '94

GARRICK THEATRE BO/CC 071 494 5085 (bkg fee)/CC (24 hrs) 344 4444 Grps 071 494 5454
STEVEN BERKOFF
ONE MAN
'Grippingly funny...Hilarious"T.Out
" Riveting... Hypnotising... ... Memorable " S Tel
Ltd Season Mon-Sat 8pm (no mats)
MUST END JAN 1

GLOBE BO/CC 071 494 5067/071 344 4444/497 9977 Grps 930 6123
TOM CONTI
GABRIELLE DRAKE JUDY LOE
& JENNY SEAGROVE
in NOEL COWARD'S
PRESENT LAUGHTER
" I was CAPTIVATED and DAZZLED by its charm and fizz. A TRIUMPH" D Mail
LAST PERFS TOMORROW
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3

GLOBE BO/CC 494 5067/497 9977
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
FELICITY KENDALL GRIFF RHYS JONES
AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY
Translated from Le Dindon by Nicki Frei & Peter Hall
Red price previews from 27 Dec

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL BO/CC 071 930 8800 24hrs no bkg fee
RSC production of
THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA
"AN UNDOUBTED HIT" Obs.
by William Shakespeare
with music by Gershwin & Cole Porter
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00.
Mats Dec 22 & 23 All Seats £11
Ltd Season Must End Jan 15

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 071 930 6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
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POP ON FRIDAY: Get ready for Patricia Kaas ... Yo La Tengo give feedback a good name ... win the history of rock

Soon, you will love this woman

Patricia Kaas is hot stuff in France. If Sony has anything to do with it (and it does), she will be mega everywhere. **Alan Jackson** lends an ear

The market for French pop acts normally extends no further north than the Calais quayside. Like the projected Channel Tunnel train from Paris, the career of a latterday Johnny Halliday or Sylvie Vartan may well accelerate to dizzying speeds on home soil, but come Kent it will have slowed down to something less than an escargot's pace. We may drink their wine, import their food and aspire to their fashions, but we draw the line at listening to their pop music.

Why, one wonders? Were Mireille Mathieu and Sacha Distel really so awful? The answer from any self-respecting British rock fan will be a resounding "Oui". While Swedish bands trample all over Britain's Top Ten, their French counterparts never approach the bottom rungs of the Gallup charts. Which is why Sony, faced with the task of overcoming this inbuilt resistance to Gallic-flavoured music, is devising an elaborate plan for the British launch of France's hottest star, the chanteuse Patricia Kaas.

The youngest of seven children born to a coalminer father and his German wife, she achieved her native breakthrough as a teenager after actor Gérard Depardieu saw her perform. He then produced her debut single, 1985's "Jalouse", so assuring her of a little associated gilt and a lot of feverish media coverage. Now 27, Kaas has filled the intervening years with more than just an unbroken string of hit records. More importantly for anyone whose ambitions extend beyond the transient pop market, she has built a reputation as the most charismatic and inventive live performer her country has produced since Piaf.

As proved by the cross-generational success of North American artists like kd lang and Harry Connick Jnr, there is a potentially infinite market for performers who strike echoes from the past but come wrapped in hip, media-sexy packaging. Kaas is not in the mould of either, but does rework key French traditions — the cabaret, the music hall, the burlesque — in a fashionable, knowing way.

Although Kaas sings in English on four specially recorded tracks included on an introductory compilation due for release here in February, she is being presented like any other luxury item from her country: the Chanel bag, the Dior perfume, the superior bottle of wine. Buy her CD and you are buying into a certain highly desirable lifestyle, Sony will insinuate.

To this end, freelance marketing adviser Didier Zerath has been brought in to attend to the finer details of an unusually precise campaign. With the help of his government's embassy staff in London, he has compiled a database that will allow him to target some 3,000 French-owned businesses around the UK — many of them, it is assumed, staffed by the 300,000-plus native French men and women resident in Britain. "And if we can inform and mobilise that core audience, all of whom will be already aware of Patricia, that's a good start," says Brian Yates, marketing director of Sony UK.

Meanwhile, coverage in *Le Magazine*, a bi-monthly publication for those interested in property and holiday destinations across the Channel, and representation at two specialist consumer events, "Vive La France", to be held in London and Bristol in early spring, will help woo Britain's Francophiles. Then, it is hoped, enthusiastic articles by journalists taken to see Kaas perform during a recent ten-night engagement at the Zenith in Paris will run in key mainstream publications, coincidental to the album's release. "To start with we're aiming very much at an ABC1 demographic, the sort of people who are already interested in and informed about France," says Graeme Hill, the Sony press officer.

> 'The little Piaf from the coalbunkers has transformed herself into a Dietrich for the 1990s'

By then, word of mouth should be making her name known in media circles. A small showcase for invited press, radio and TV will build on that buzz. Then will come the debut concert appearance at a London theatre. If the overall impression here is of a gentle but persistent wooing of a discerning, carefully selected public, rather than some brash and indiscriminate chatting-up, that is entirely appropriate.

"If it doesn't work after eight weeks, we're not going to say thank you and goodnight," Yates says. "Even if it takes a year or two or even three, we'll carry on. We know it will happen for Patricia sooner or later. She's going to be a major star here."

If he is right, Kaas will become the first French-speaking musician of her generation to achieve sustained fame outside of continental Europe. Vanessa Paradis has so far failed to make a convincing breakthrough, despite a much-vaunted collaboration with Lenny Kravitz. And, while the young Quebecoise Celine Dion is now a major star in the US, it is as a result of having sublimated rather than emphasised her cultural "otherness". "And anyway, she broke in the US by virtue of one great commercial song ["Where Does My Heart Beat Now"] that went to radio and then just exploded," Yates says. "That's unlikely to be the route with Patricia. What we have in her is an artist who'll be there forever, and who doesn't just rely on a succession of hit singles."

While Sony stop short of saying so, the implication is that we're talking about someone more *Minnelli* than *Minogue* — what the Americans are fond of calling "a class act". Certainly that's what the excitable French glossy *Paris Match* sees her as. Dressed provocatively by Azzedine Alaïa, Kaas smoulders from the cover of its current issue in a manner suggestive of Streep or Lang remaking *The Blue Angel*. "A la Madonna, elle vampe un public en extase," gushes the editorial inside, referring to the excitement generated by her Paris shows.

More pertinent to Britain perhaps are the exquisitely styled photographs that litter the ten-page spread. Kaas alabaster-pale in a scarlet baby-doll dress. Kaas in black bustier and tiny boots. Kaas in a silk slip applying her lipgloss backstage. They may well speak loudest about why we may take the singer to our hearts. For while, as a nation, Britain remains unconvinced that a pop star can hail from the other side of La Manche, we do ascribe enthusiastically to the French tradition of the femme fatale.

"The little Piaf from the coalbunkers of the Lorraine has transformed herself into a Marlene Dietrich for the 1990s," pronounces *Paris Match*. In which case, Yates may well be right to believe that the day will come when aspirant Brits choose a Patricia Kaas CD as musical accompaniment to the Fleurie and roquefort they serve at dinner parties. Pop music we may be reluctant to import, but not so style, sophistication and sex appeal. "A challenge like this is a marketing man's dream," Yates says, smoothing down the cover of his magazine.



Patricia Kaas is the future of rock 'n' roll — and we have a giant multi-conglomerate's word on that

NEW WAVES

The insider's guide to the Next Big Thing

During the past year, pop, rock and dance have developed so many specialist sub-sections that a Japanese sushi master is required to sort out the fillets. Generally speaking, integrationists abandon hope before entering such a fragmented field.

Then, every so often, a synthesist arises with the determination to take advantage of all the divided tribes. A visionary band such as K7, for example. The name may be uninspiring, but K7 is one of the few acts possessing the wit and expertise to unify party music.

Thus far, K7's debut single "Come Baby Come" has sold nearly half a million copies in America. Based in Manhattan and released on Tommy Boy, one of America's most innovative independent labels, K7 are masterminded by Joey Gardner.

Gardner's apprenticeship in the business was served in the mid-1980s, when he steered the course of a young Hispanic singing group named TKA. One of the market leaders in so-called Latin hip-hop, TKA attempted, but failed, to make a transition from this bubblegum dance movement into mainstream pop.

Gardner appears to have learnt some useful lessons from this experience. Basically a band of five vocalists, K7 integrate soul, ragga, hip-hop, swingbeat, Latin music and jazz.

Gardner's choice of musical references on *Swing Batta Swing*, K7's first album, is resolutely populist and charmingly old-fashioned. Dipping into the Cab Calloway and Johnny Bristol songbooks, he also tips his hat to hip-hop and disco from the early 1980s. K7 may not be the most challenging prospect for next year, but they could prove to be one of the biggest.

DAVID TOOP

CHRISTMAS CONTEST

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1. Which guitarist replaced Brian Jones in the Rolling Stones?
2. Who is Kylie's current man?
3. Who wrote the Sandie Shaw classic hit single "Nothing Comes Easy"?
4. What was the name of Tina Turner's best-selling album released in 1984?
5. In which Australian group do the Finn brothers, Tim and Neil, play?

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NEW ALBUMS: Yo La Tengo feel like letting their feedback freak flag fly; the young Elvis Costello at his finest

Trio on a mission to save the wails

YO LA TENGO
Painful
(City Slang EFA 04927)
EVER since Jimi Hendrix first created music from the extraneous noises that result when an electric guitar and its amplifier are turned up close to maximum volume, rock musicians have been fascinated by feedback. They love its unpredictability, its dramatic urgency (so redolent of sirens, alarms and other warning devices) and above all its sheer, chaotic noisiness.

Some performers, like Neil Young on his album *Arc-Weld*, simply let it run riot, and no grunge group worth its salt would end a show without leaving a barrage of uncontrolled noise in its wake.

But there has long been a dedicated corps of sonic extremists on the art-rock wing of popular music who have sought to groom this unholy sound, to sculpt it into delicate or ambient melodic shapes, while retaining the essentially unnerving quality that will always be part of a semi-controlled, electronic screech.

Yo La Tengo, a three-piece from Hoboken, New Jersey, do this better than most. The name is Puerto Rican baseball slang for "I got it" and they are torch-bearers of an alternative songwriting tradition which extends from the Velvet Underground to the Jesus And Mary Chain, Cowboy Junkies and Spiritualized.

As such, Yo La Tengo's music has a deceptively light touch and a quietly aloof air, as if detached from the rough and tumble of the rock mainstream. "Big Day Coming", the opening track on *Painful*, the group's sixth album, lasts seven minutes and unfolds about as rapidly as a flower opening to greet the morning light. Shorter and even more lovely is "The Whole Of The Law", a melody with which the Everly Brothers would be quite at home. Yet on both these tracks the sound of feedback lurks like a nascent migraine dancing in the corners of the eyes on a cold, sunny day.

For most of the album, guitarist and organist Ira Kaplan sings in a faint, nondescript tone, but when drummer and guitarist Georgia Hubley takes over on "Nowhere Near", in which her deadpan voice is counterpointed by a twanging guitar motif and a desultory tambourine beat, echoes of Nico with the Velvet Underground are unmistakable.

On "Double Dare" and "From A Motel 6" there is a hypnotic combination of gentle vocals, innocuous tunes and an utterly wrecked guitar sound rigged to produce mysterious wailings and sighings that skate haphazardly across the chord structures. But the pièce de résistance is "I Heard You Looking", a seven-minute instrumental which closes the album. Built around a single guitar motif, it rises from a gentle, beautiful shimmer into a swirling torrent of dissonance before resolving itself back into the original riff for a cascading, majestic fade.



Yo La Tengo — Georgia Hubley, Ira Kaplan, James McNew — screech into the limelight

ELVIS COSTELLO & THE ATTRACTIONS
2½ Years
(Demon DPAM BOXI; four discs)
HE HAS become such a self-regarding old bore of late that it's a rare pleasure to be able to write something nice about Elvis Costello. *2½ Years* is a highly desirable boxed set which incorporates his first three albums — *My Aim Is True*, *This Years Model* and *Armed Forces* — together with *Live At The Mocambo*, a recording of a show broadcast on Canadian radio in 1978 and subsequently pressed up as a promotional album, but never officially released before.

To anyone who has waded through the ponderous arrangements and lyrical verbiage of Costello's more recent releases, the most striking aspect of the songs on these early albums is how pithy and direct they are: "Oliver's Army" (2min 58sec); "Blame It On Cain" (2:49); "Welcome To The Working Week" (1:22), and so many more, are wonderfully clipped, punchy songs with words that dig straight to the heart of the matter.

The live album, in particular, underlines what a superb band the Attractions were, coping with everything from the sinister reggae pulse of "Watching the Detectives" to an unbelievably hectic "Lipstick Vogue". Costello was never going to go far wrong with such a lean, no-nonsense gang in tow.

Contrary to the modern trend towards slimline boxed sets, the packaging of *2½ Years* is both bulky and tacky. But the music is impeccable.

MESSIAH
21st Century Jesus
(WEA 4509-94393)
"IT was a time of darkness and destruction ... the machines meant to end war for all time instead became the executioners of civilisation ..." This and more futuristic twaddle, delivered in sepulchral tones by a Vincent Price soundalike, opens the debut album by Messiah. The thumping drum machine beat, buzzy keyboard sounds and swiftly snatched samples of "Beyond Good And Evil" are not far behind.

Although, in most respects, Ali Ghani and Mark Davies are just another techno duo from London, operating somewhere between the credible dance fusion of Utah Saints and the disposable pop of 2 Unlimited, they have attracted the attention of hardcore American rock magnate Rick Rubin and landed a heavyweight international recording contract.

Three hits down the line — "Temple Of Dreams", "Thunderdome" and a frenzied remake of Donna Summer's disco classic "I Feel Love", all included here — they are clearly ahead of the field, if some distance from the cutting edge.

However, this album is too dance-orientated and unintentionally juvenile in its approach to spread their appeal much beyond the committed ravers, despite a typically cloddish contribution from the Cult's Ian Astbury on "Creator".

SHOULDERS
The Fun Never Stops
(Musidisc 110472)
SHOULDERS are the band from Austin, Texas, who describe their music as "circus rock 'n' roll". Among the vast collection of instruments featured on their new album, they list such oddities as bent tin whistle, ugly cornet, free-hanging river pipe and rusty cowbell, items suggesting the sound of a vaudeville band from hell. The reality is more prosaic, and on songs like "Mr Troll Is Crying" and "All Seamen's Ball" they basically sound like a watered-down version of the Pogues.

Singer and chief songwriter Michael Slattery might pass for a poor man's Tom Waits, but lacks either the melodic or poetic facility to carry it off. Typical is the mannered roar which he brings to bear on "Each Little Cannibal", a tactic which fails to disguise the song's blindingly obvious descending chord sequence and lack of a proper tune.

The game is well and truly up by the time the band all join in for a mass singalong of "Auld Lang Syne" during the album's closing number, "Old Anxieties (Happy New Year)". Even the Saw Doctors or the Levellers would steer clear of a stunt like that.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	Bat Out Of Hell II — Back Into Hell	Meat Loaf (Virgin)
2	So Far So Good	Bryan Adams (A&M)
3	One Woman — The Ultimate Collection	Diana Ross (EMI)
4	Everything Changes	Take That (RCA)
5	Duets	Elton John (Rocket)
6	So Close	Dina Carroll (A&M)
7	Both Sides	Phil Collins (Virgin)
8	The One Thing	Michael Bolton (Columbia)
9	Music Box	Mariah Carey (Columbia)
10	Experience The Divine	Bette Midler (Atlantic)

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MOTORING





Two new models among many out to win customers in the executive and middle market: Vauxhall's Omega, left, which comes in a range of 24 saloons and estates, and the BMW 316i Compact, for buyers with a tight bank balance

Car makers rev out of the recession

The launch of a host of new models is a brave attempt to made 1994 a record sales year, reports Kevin Eason

After 12 months spent fighting for survival, as the recession crept across the Channel to wreak havoc on the Continent, car makers are putting on a brave face and gearing up to launch dozens of new models in British showrooms in the New Year.

More than 40 new or face-lifted cars are eagerly awaited for 1994. Some manufacturers are keeping their best secrets to surprise us, but most will have something to catch the eye over the next few months.

They range from the re-introduction of a much-maligned FSO from Poland, which may have a bright future thanks to East-West co-operation, to a reborn version of the Ford Capri. Vauxhall this week also released details of its Omega, in the important executive car league, to replace the old Carlton and Senator range.

There will be no mistaking this car when it looms in the rear-view mirror, for the grille will feature a large "V" — an imprint which we are liable to see on the nose of all new Vauxhalls.

Omega comes at a crucial time because Ford will have its own re-skinned Granada ready for launch by mid-year. The Omega will, therefore, have to be good to persuade some of the Granada faithful, who have made the car a long-time best-seller in the executive sector, to move across to the General Motors stable.

There are already some reservations about the Omega's looks which are midway between the Carlton and Senator and not as good as either. But GM has thrown the engineering book at this range of 24 saloons and estates to increase build quality, refinement, environmental features, safety and security.

> The Omega has 69 billion lock combinations

The saloon body is 26 per cent stiffer than the old cars and overall finish should be bettered with gaps between panels reduced by 25 per cent and shut lines — between doors and bonnet lid, for example — engineered to 5mm or less, reducing wind noise.

The Omega petrol engines — 2-litre, 2.5 and 3-litre V6 — are claimed to be 60 per cent below present European noise limits and 8 per cent more fuel economic. The entry-level engine will offer about 130 brake horse power and a 130mph top speed, but the 200bhp British-built V6 is the star of the show and will propel the most powerful cars in the range to 149mph.

However, for the diesel version, which could represent 15 per cent of all Omega sales in Britain, GM has turned for help to the experts. BMW has adapted its own 2.5-litre turbo-diesel so that Vauxhall will have an executive tourer capable of 40 miles to the gallon but still with a top speed of 124mph.

Already the petrol engines meet environmental regulations not due until 1996 while the turbo-diesel is equipped with a two-way catalytic converter — unlike those of some competitors.

The safety and security package is enormous. Anti-lock brakes will be standard, with airbags and three-point rear seat belts the most obvious safety measures, alongside a host of hidden features. Vauxhall's reputation for security is among the best and the Omega range will feature a new infra-red remote-control locking system with 69 billion combinations, coded radios and engine immobilisers to dissuade car thieves.

Just as eagerly awaited but about two-feet shorter is BMW's new "baby", a two-door hatchback. The German car manufacturer has effectively chopped the elegant rear from its present 3-Series to create a new four-cylinder, 1.6-litre car which will put the company back into small car territory.

The 3-Series has traditionally been pitched at the more up-market end of the medium segment. The Compact, as it will be known, gives buyers with a tighter bank balance a chance to sample BMW's legendary engineering.

> BMW gets back into the small car market

Renault is also looking for new buyers in the upper-medium segment where its new Laguna will be rubbing tyrewalls with the 3-Series, Rover's 600 model and top-of-the-range Ford Mondeos.

Renault is promising a choice of four engines — 1.8-litre, 2 and 3-litre V6 petrol and a 2.2-litre diesel — in a striking body style with a nose as distinctive as the Omega.

The base 1.8-litre, which could be priced close to the Mondeo at about £11,500, will still be good enough for a top speed of 112mph and average fuel consumption of nearly 38mpg. The V6, which will come as an automatic, packs the power with a top speed of 137mph.

Renault also claims a list as long as a driver's arm of safety and security improvements. It does, however, include what was obviously a first fruit of the recently annulled marriage with Volvo: a new child booster seat and rear-facing child seat.

The seats were developed by Volvo, which pioneered the concept of built-in child protection. Even with such a neat and welcome gimmick, the French will be bidding for attention in a crowded series of launches. They range from the sublime, with the spring introduction of the new Aston Martin DB7, to the FSO. FSO dropped out of the British market three years ago but is relaunching in January under the badge, Caro. The company could sell 15,000 cars a year by 1996.

FSO will import three models, a £6,000 pick-up, a diesel at about £7,300 and a hatchback which uses a Fiat-designed 1.5-litre engine with Vauxhall Astra injection and engine management system.

Among other makers, there are derivatives galore with the Citroën ZX estate and an estate for the popular Rover 400, plus a convertible version of the new Saab 900. Volkswagen's Golf also loses its roof in a new cabriolet.

Ford weighs in with a people carrier to rival Renault's pioneering Espace and the Probe from America which will effectively be the Ford Capri of the 1990s.

Land Rover will be busy with spring facelifts for the Discovery series and the Range Rover and an all-new Range Rover in the autumn. Jaguar's XJ6 range also gets a polish in the autumn ... and there are many, many more.

At least the launches may lift the gloom. By the time these new models reach the showrooms, the storm clouds of recession may have finally lifted and the manufacturers will be able to bask for a while in the glory of their new models instead of worrying about their bank balances.

Personal breath testers, available here soon, could save your licence. But police are not enthusiastic

The night before could cost you today

Bill was aghast. This might have been the morning after the night before, but there was no reason to suppose he was over the limit.

The office party was just like thousands of others at this time of year: straight into the pub at the end of the working day with the car keys of every festive participant safely locked away for the night, *writes Kevin Eason.*

Nobody on the staff was irresponsible enough to get caught in the annual drink-drive trap. And a jolly time was had by all, thanks to plenty of rich food, much seasonal merriment and a lot of festive drink on which to float home.

There were plenty of bleary eyes the next day, but Bill was chipper enough to attack the rigours of the work station ... until he blew into a new alcohol breath tester on loan to *The Times.*

That was when the shock set in. Bill discovered that last night's excess had turned into today's problem. He was not alone. I discovered that I, too, would have been playing with fire if I had taken the car out, even at 10 the next morning.

Neither of us felt over the limit. our speech was as articulate as it ever was going to be, we were not bumping into the furniture — but, according to our little hand-held machine, we were over the drink-drive limit.

We had the advantage of knowing that we would endanger our licences if we took the car out. We therefore had the benefit of being able to consider alternative transport.

Millions of other motorists will not have a clue this Christmas that they are breaking the law and are driving straight into a ban.

They could know if they had a personal breath tester, a simple machine which would draw the line between safe driving and a miserable Christmas.

However, the police are strongly against personal testers. Their logic is simple and persuasive. The Association of Chief Police Officers says that drivers using personal testers will be encouraged to drink up to the limit, that few understand body metabolism and that users need to wait at least 20 minutes before using an alcohol breath tester. There is also no safeguard that the tester is accurate.

The police message is clear: if you drive, do not drink, an instruction with which every driver — even the daftest — sympathises. If only life was that simple.

I know of dozens of drivers who have no intention of over-stepping the drink-drive mark. There is the executive who enjoys a convivial lunch, then waits several hours to get over the half bottle of wine before setting off for home. Or the doctor, who accepts a couple of glasses of sherry with a grateful patient on long and tiring rounds.

The most ascetic will be right in saying they were all foolish. But how can anyone know how close to the limit they are — until they are tested at the roadside by a policeofficer? There is no way of running a quick check to ensure that everything is all right.

And in the case of the people who carefully locks up their car for the office Christmas party and takes a taxi, bus or tube, there is still no way of knowing what the after-effects of drink might be.

Despite objections to personal testers, other countries have found that they work, says Stuart Brown of Alkontrol Imports, which is bringing testers in from America. There, they are big business. Dozens of companies issue testers to employees and they are freely available in bars and restaurants.

Mr Brown is selling the "Ensure" machine which is claimed to be as accurate and reliable as the police's own meter. The latter is not available on general sale to the public.

The hand-held £169 Ensure is about the size of a portable tape player and needs a single nine-volt battery. The electronic read-out is calibrated to tell drivers whether they are on or over the 80 milligrammes of alcohol legal limit.

The idea is simple: when you are ready to drive, blow into the tester and check whether you are under or over the limit.

The problem is, nobody knows how quickly they metabolise alcohol. Three pints of beer, as we discovered at *The Times*, has apparently little effect on some drivers, while others were way over the limit.

Dr Richard Emerson, a former Home Office expert on drink-driving, was not surprised. He says: "The trouble is, people are affected by alcohol at different rates at different times. There is no set answer to what to drink and when to drink it because people are so different."

Mr Brown says: "The machine tells you categorically when to drive and removes all doubt."

ADRIAN BROOKS



A breath tester that motorists use to check whether they should drive

As always, the answer lies between the two. Our tests seemed to prove that some people react more slowly to alcohol than others and the danger is that drivers will use a personal tester at the wrong time and discover too late that they are really over the limit.

The morning-after drinker could benefit from a tried and trusted warning signal, which is where the Ensure machine can help.

But when it comes down to it, whom do you trust? There is only one machine that matters, and that belongs to the police. No amount of argument that you tested before driving will work in court.

How often do you really need a car?

Many people would be better off hiring, going by taxi — or even walking

Why own a machine that pumps noxious gases in the air, is being increasingly linked with ill health, takes up space, spends most of its life going nowhere and costs an arm and a leg to run?

The answer, claims John Adams, reader in geography at University College London, is that despite rising and widespread concern over the damage to the landscape and nature sites by road-building and the environmental effects of cars, many people are addicted to the notions of mobility, freedom and convenience symbolised by the internal combustion engine.

Studies indicate, however, that 95 per cent of a car's life is spent parked outside homes or near offices. A new car costs an average £9,000 and running costs are soaring. But unless you can offer people the benefits of car ownership without actually having to buy one, curbing the explosive growth of vehicles will be impossible, he says.

Dr Adams has made a few suggestions. Surveys indicate that shopping, driving into the country at weekends and holidays are the main reasons people give for needing cars. Cheap car-hire centres on every high street could play a key role in breaking society's insatiable thirst for privately owning four wheels. Dr Adams said at a conference in London on carbon emissions from transport. The vehicles would be available for long rentals and also for a few hours.

Dr Adams said that in Manhattan, fewer people now owned cars because it was impossible to park them. Instead, taxis and public transport were used during week days and hire cars at weekends for trips outside the city.

Other measures aimed at curbing the explosive growth of car ownership include a return to old-fashioned home deliveries for groceries, which would be made day and night to houses or local collection points. Making local bus, train and light rail networks available nationally was also a key.

Vital to the success of such schemes is making the costs of hiring cheaper than that of owning and running a car. Low-cost car-hire centres also need to be sited at train stations.

Many people are happy to use public transport to get to a local station but worry about what to do at an unfamiliar destination. Another solution, said Dr Adams, was to improve information on local bus, taxis and light-rail timetables. With modern telecommunications technology, such details could be available electronically.

Dr Adams said that if government estimates on car ownership come true, 27 million more cars will be on Britain's roads in the next century.

"This will require a motorway stretching from London to Edinburgh which has 257 lanes," he told delegates to the meeting of groups from Climate Action Network, an alliance of organisations including Transport 2000, the RSPB, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and Greenpeace.

Dr Adams said the growth in the numbers of cars was damaging methods of more environmentally friendly ways of travel. For example, fewer people were now walking. Dr Adams said a 1971 survey of five British schools showed that 80 per cent of seven to eight year olds got to school on their own, many by walking. By 1991, a survey of the same schools showed that only 9 per cent went to school unaccompanied; many were taken by parents in cars because of "traffic fear".

NICK NUTTALL

Rover's good and bad news

THE PRICE of Rover cars rises from Monday by an average of 2.9 per cent. However, the company says that prices of 200 and 400 series cars will not change.

Meanwhile, early indications are that the Rover 600 is a winner, although it is difficult to tell until cars hit the used market. ADT Auctions has held early sales with the Rover and the Ford Mondeo, both launched this year, and discovered the 600 series attracting 93.5 per cent of its new price. The Mondeo was not far behind with prices averaging 89.3 per cent of new value.

Multiple fears

TOWN centres with bad parking facilities will go short of shoppers this Christmas, according to the AA. It questioned 1,400 members and discovered that quality of car parks determined where 70 per cent would shop. One in five avoid multi-storey car parks and three-quarters of women surveyed do not feel safe in one.

ROADWISE

Testing times

FROM January 2, MoT test fees are going up from £24 to £25.30 for cars and light vans and the charge for motorcycles from £10.35 to £10.80. The MoT check for diesel smoke is to be re-introduced from February 1. The Transport Department withdrew it last year after complaints of damaged engines. Electronic equipment will carry out the measurement on all vehicles registered on or after August 1, 1979.

In line for success

FORD has been celebrating the success of its investment in a new £13 million assembly line at Dagenham, Essex, which makes it the lead manufacturing plant in Europe for the Fiesta. More than 50,000 cars have rolled off the new line, which allows 98 separate assembly operations.

Calling Previa

TOYOTA is issuing a "special service campaign" message (the rest of us know that as a recall) to owners of Previa people-carriers. The company says that driving at high speed in icy temperatures could result in the front windscreen wiper stopping.

The defect could apply to almost 3,000 vehicles and will be rectified free of charge when owners take the vehicles back to official dealers.

Super seller

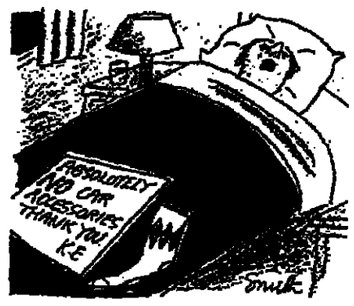
FOR those wallowing in the aftermath of recession, try this for a success story. Greenhous of Hanley in Staffordshire has been named Vauxhall's top dealer. The showroom has sold 10,000 cars this year — more than 250 a week — to take the title for the third year running.

Morning sickness

MY WORST fear: to wake on Christmas morning to a stocking full of interesting car accessories. A release from Polco tells me I could be the lucky recipient of a Polco pay and display ticket holder, price 99p, this year or even a Polco water wiper, price £3.99 — a "large flexible rubber blade that is soft enough to mould itself to the car bodywork to gently sweep away excess water in seconds".

Or, if I am really lucky, I might get a Polco in-car torch, which makes "an equally useful bedside light" ... or I might just stay in bed if that is all I have to look forward to on Christmas morning.

KEVIN EASON



هكذا من الأصل

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DIESEL CARS

PETROL PRICES SOAR



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There's only one sensible answer to soaring fuel prices: switch to a diesel car. On average they use a quarter less fuel than equivalent petrol models. The higher fuel prices go, the more you'll save by driving diesel.

But the savings don't end there. Because low running costs are so important to used car buyers, and because diesels have a well-deserved reputation for reliability and long life, diesel cars hold their value better than petrol models.

These days, diesels cost little or nothing more than equivalent petrol models. The best are fast, smooth and quiet; but the worst are still slow, rough and noisy. Only **Diesel Car**, the independent monthly magazine, has thoroughly tested virtually all the diesel models you can buy.

But as well as new car tests, **Diesel Car** is full of information, entertainment and interest. The January issue, in the shops now, contains 25 separate features. Pick up a copy at your newsagent or supermarket and you'll discover why, in a world full of magazines for boy racers, we call it the magazine for thinking drivers.

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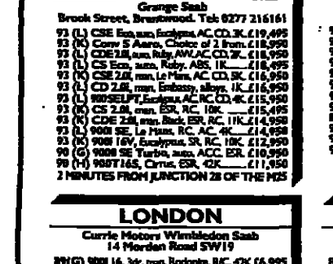
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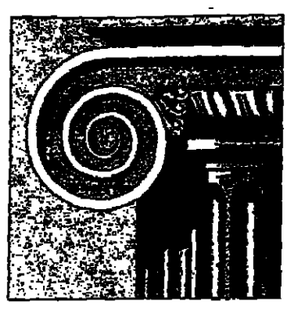
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Tread sternly and don't say socialism



The new Athens government has aroused misgivings, but is not likely to rock the boat and has begun with austerity. Chris Eliou reports



P SAITAS

Andreas Papandreou is cheered by supporters after voting in Athens in the election that returned his socialist party to power

Though Greece's partners in the European Union may have deep misgivings over prospects for the first half of 1994, when Athens will hold the rotating presidency, the Greeks know better. This time, they believe, there is nothing to suggest that Andreas Papandreou's new socialist government, elected in October, will play a maverick role in the councils of the EU.

When the socialist party (Pasok) was first elected to power in 1981, for what was to become an eight-year term, the watchword was "change". The Greek economy was then at the top of the boom cycle, Greece had just entered the European Community on terms that could be and were improved, and Balkan tranquillity permitted an adventurous foreign policy, including some rocking of the boat.

Today, none of that applies, and Pasok itself has changed. In the election campaign, "socialist" and "socialism" were among the words most rarely heard. Since then, in place of the heady "programme of the [first] 100 days", there has been an almost desperate attempt to balance budgets and to break electoral promises as slowly and inconspicuously as possible.

The Greeks voted against the conservative New Democracy government rather than for the socialists. They rejected a party that had introduced necessary but unpopular reforms closer to the end than the beginning of its term, inflicting wounds that were still bleeding when they went to the polls. They also turned against an autocratic and unpopular prime minister, Constantine Mitsotakis, aged 74, who headed a splintered administration from which some of the most popular party figures had either withdrawn in dudgeon or been dismissed.

Mr Papandreou, who is also 74, has little of the "vision thing" to offer domestically this time, in sharp contrast to 1981. Nothing is said of nationalisation. Privatisation is to be slowed and restricted, but not totally abandoned, and only the Athens bus system has so far been listed for a form of renationalisation.

Instead of "change", there is to be continued wage austerity, retrenchment in the public services and a tax raid on the black economy. The government hopes that this will make up the shortfall from the decision to replace the privatisation of state corporations, notably telecommunications and power, with the floating of minority holdings on the stock exchange.

Greece's EU partners can take heart from the country's dependence on funding for major infrastructural projects, which will be forthcoming from Brussels only if the policy of economic convergence is uninterrupted, and then only with close supervision of funds. There will be no more of the blank cheques of the 1980s, diverted to construction of an unaffordable but vote-winning welfare state.

This dependence promises Greece's partners an easier run than might be suggested by the outburst last month from Theodoros Pangalos, the minister for European affairs. Mr Pangalos was publicly disowned by Karolos Papoulias, the foreign minister, after describing Germany as "a giant with the brain of a child".

In the Balkans, the new government does have its own policy. It sees Greece as the natural channel of communications between the EU and Serbia, since it is the only EU member that is also a Balkan state, seeks closer political and economic relations with Bulgaria and Romania, and has been striving to head off the establishment of diplomatic relations with the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

Macedonia is certainly the most sensitive of the foreign policy issues, and the only one on which government and opposition are in broad agreement: that recognition of the Skopje-based republic under any name containing the word "Macedonia" is tantamount to encouraging future territorial claims against the northern Greek province of the same name.

Greek threats to seal its own borders with the republic are given little credence, if only because of the bad light in which this would place Greece internationally. But Athens is bitter over yesterday's announcement that several of its EU partners, including Britain, will open diplomatic relations with Skopje. This is a breach of "Community solidarity", it claims.

There is not expected to be a further deterioration of Greece's strained relations with Turkey because of the Cyprus issue — essentially, in Greek eyes, the refusal of Turkey to withdraw its troops from the north of the island — and the various Aegean disputes.

Mr Papandreou and Glafkos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot president, recently made a joint declaration bringing the Greek part of Cyprus under Greece's defence umbrella. But though this may have caused irritation in Ankara, it is widely believed that the formula was invented to provide the Greek government with an excuse for not sending an army division to the island, something that had been requested by the Greek Cypriot government in Nicosia.

At home, Mr Papandreou faces problems that he did not confront in 1981, when he was riding a tide of popular enthusiasm. There has been a shadow over his health since he had heart bypass surgery shortly before he lost office in 1989, while his political debits now include the scandals that helped to topple him then — and assiduous attempts to find something comparable to hold against Mr Mitsotakis have so far brought no results.

There is also now a greater degree of political fluidity, due in part to the lack of any obvious successor if ill health forces Mr Papandreou to withdraw, and in part to developments in the opposition parties.

New Democracy's defeat in October was followed quickly by the retirement of Mr Mitsotakis and the election as his successor, so far without splits in the party, of Miltiades Evert, the party's consistently most effective vote-winner.

Mr Evert, aged 54, is nicknamed "the bulldozer". He is a former mayor of Athens who resigned from the second position in the Mitsotakis government over policy disagreements and as a result escaped blame for some of the actions that led to its collapse.

There will be additional challenges to Mr Papandreou, but also to Mr Evert, in two elections due next year, one in June for the European Parliament and the other in the autumn for mayors and local authorities. Neither election will put the government's survival on the line, but heavy defeats would cost it credibility, and raise a questionmark over the leadership of Mr Papandreou. By the same token, a socialist triumph would be a setback for Mr Evert.

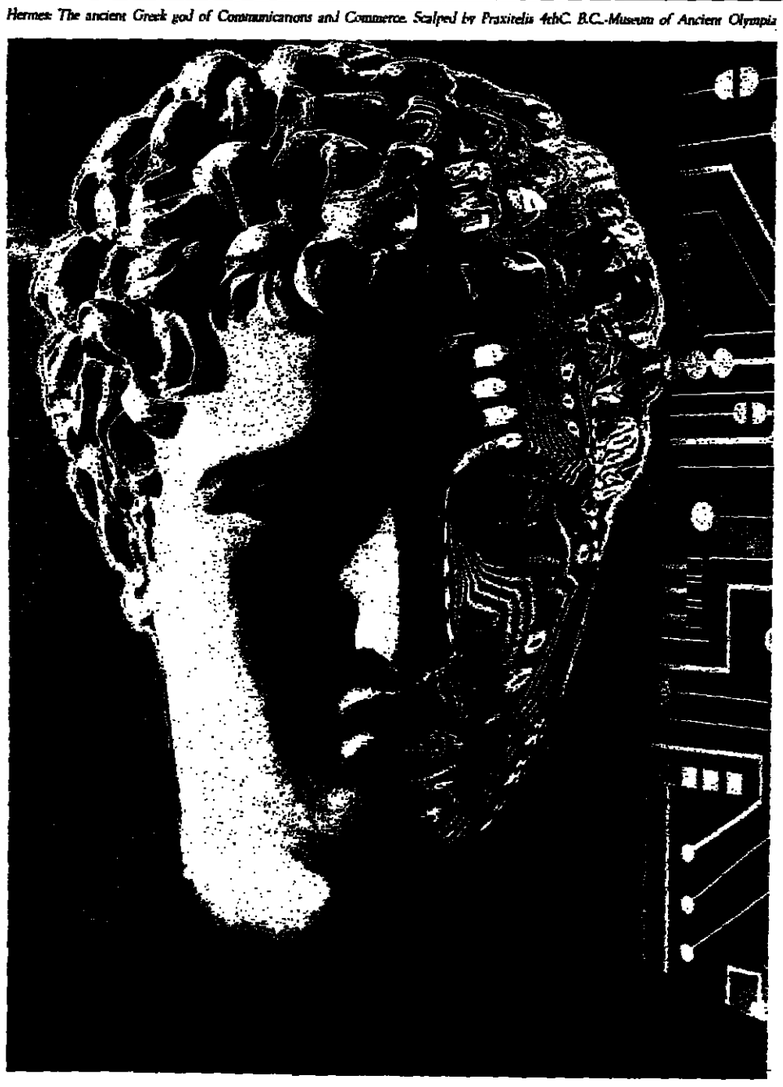
Further off, in May 1995 a new president will have to be elected to succeed Constantine Karamanlis, the veteran statesman who will be 88 by then and is unlikely to stand again. If a general election is to be avoided, 180 of the 300 parliamentary deputies will have to agree on a candidate. The socialists have only 170 seats, and even if the communists back them, for fear of an election, they will still be one vote short.

This will put the spotlight on Antonis Samaras, 42, the firebrand nationalist — and product of the Harvard Business School — whom Mr Mitsotakis dismissed as foreign minister because of his inflexible policy on Macedonia, and who retaliated by forming the Political Spring party that first toppled the government and then won 10 seats in the October election.

Mr Samaras had spotted an opening for a new party in the area between New Democracy and the socialists, and the votes he took from Mr Mitsotakis in October gave Mr Papandreou his seemingly comfortable majority. Political Spring won 5 per cent of the vote. But Mr Samaras has yet to prove that he can consolidate his position and attract a wider following.

Mr Papandreou is at least not repeating Mr Mitsotakis' basic error of putting off unpopular measures. They have been taken at once, in the 1994 budget. But they will pay dividends only if the next election is held off for four years. This suggests that Mr Samaras is unlikely to offer Mr Papandreou a lifebelt in 1995.

Hermes: The ancient Greek god of Communications and Commerce. Sculpted by Praxitelis 4thC. B.C.-Museum of Ancient Olympia

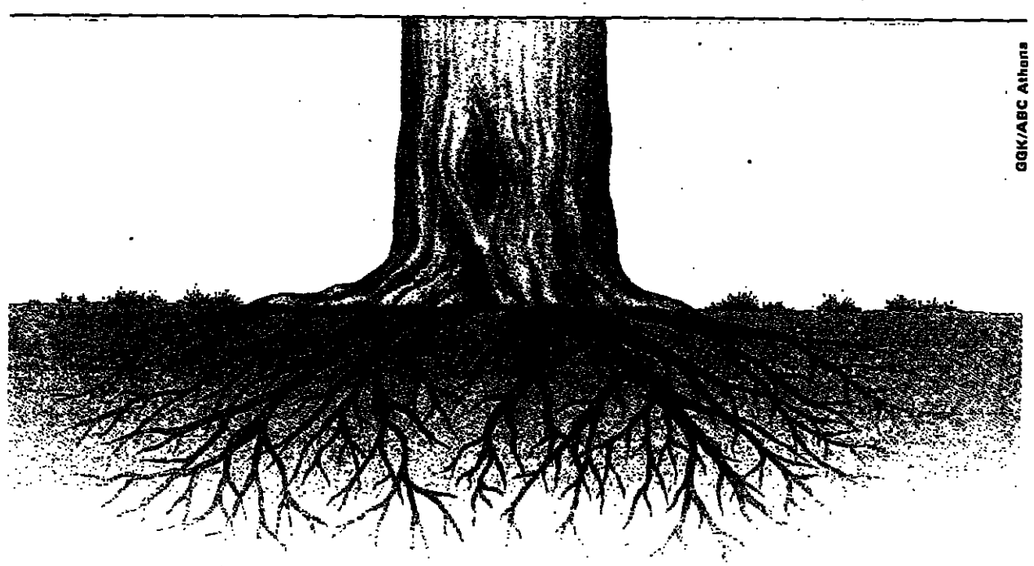


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Traders in an Athens street market. The government is acting to curb the black economy by extending the tax net for trades and professions

Eye on a 'black hole'

The government seeks to reconcile a booming private sector and heavy public debt. **Victor Walker** reports

At first glance, it is difficult to see why George Yennimatas, Greece's economy and finance minister, should have found stitching together the budget for 1994 the "nightmare" that he said it was. In a European Community racked by unemployment, and increasingly by social disturbances, Greece appears to be an oasis of tranquillity and prosperity.

Unemployment, whether it is the 6.3 per cent registered unemployed or the estimated true total of about 9 per cent, is well below the EC average, and falling month by month. The main trade unions are unlikely to rebel over a further year of the wage austerity they accepted under the previous conservative government.

Inflation is dropping, too: while the present 12.8 per cent may be the worst in the EC, it is Greece's lowest for a decade. Even the balance of payments has ceased to be a headache. The current account balance is steadily in surplus, helped by a narrowing trade gap and swelling inflows from the EC budget, shipping and tourism.

Industry is healthy and industrialists are optimistic over opportunities in the EC's single market and the Balkan and East European countries. Greek businessmen are moving determinedly into the Balkans.

Just how far Greeks' disposable income is immune to inflation and wage restraint is shown by the health of the construction sector and the brisk business in shops, night clubs, tavernas, theatres and cinemas, as well as hi-fi and video sales.

The reason for Mr Yennimatas's nightmares is the difference between a booming private sector and an ailing state. The state has a budget deficit and level of debt that led Andreas Papandreou, the prime minister, to declare that "either the nation will eliminate the debt or the debt will eliminate the nation".

The public debt is now conservatively estimated at 117 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), and the public sector deficit at 13 per cent without debt servicing. Even if the 1994 budget forecasts are achieved, the situation will change little.

The budget anticipates revenue up 23 per cent at 7,364 billion drachmae (£20 billion) and expenditure up 17.6 per cent at 9,787 billion drachmae (£26.7 billion). The government expects to borrow at least $4 billion abroad and to raise 3,700 billion drachmae (£10 billion) domestically, adding to debts estimated at the end of 1993 at 15,206 billion drachmae (£41.4 billion) domestically and 4,469 billion drachmae (£12 billion) in foreign currencies.

This burden is accepted as the main cause of inflation and chief obstacle to reducing the cost of money.

Mr Papandreou speaks of eliminating the debt, but his government remains hostage to its socialist ideology. It has accepted the principle of "some privatisation", but its first action was to cancel sales scheduled by the outgoing government for 1993, and this and electoral uncertainties accounted for what Mr Yennimatas terms a "black hole" in the 1993 budget.

The government also speaks of cutbacks in the public sector, but is moving to rehire up to 20,000 former employees who claim to have lost jobs for "political reasons" under the previous government.

Hopes of increased revenues are based on yet another assault on Greece's notorious black economy, estimated to account for between 35 and 40 per cent of GDP. This is to be achieved by extending the tax net to the so-far immune farm sector, and more fully to the professions where evasion is known to be rife, notably doctors, lawyers, civil engineers, providers of fix-it services and small tradesmen. The tax bite on lower income groups is to be reduced and increased for the well-off.

A search to create regional stability

Athens is keen to promote its stabilising role, writes **Thanos Veremis**

Greek foreign policy has been dominated recently by developments in the Balkans, particularly the former Yugoslavia. The Greeks are preoccupied by the need to create stability in the region, and their new socialist party (Pasok) government will be stressing Greece's role as a stabilising force.

Greece, it is pointed out, is the most important source of investment and remittances in the region, and is the local representative of the European Union. Theodoros Pangalos, the minister for European affairs, will capitalise on this regional role when Greece takes over the presidency of the EU's council of ministers in January.

Athens's immediate preoccupation, however, has been the differences between itself and other members of the EU over terms for the recognition of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Because it arouses such strong emotions, Greece is keen to keep the issue out of the limelight, and it still has to be seen whether there will be a significant shift in Greece's own position under the new government.

The last nine months of the outgoing New Democracy government were a desperate race against time. Stephanos Manos, the economy minister, struggled to bring down the high rate of inflation, while Michalis Papaconstantinou, the foreign minister, travelled round the European capitals in an effort to limit the damage caused to Greece's Balkan policy by the intransigence of his predecessor, Antonis Samaras, over recognition of the former Yugoslav republic.

The Greek position is that use by the republic of the name of Macedonia could imply a claim on Greece's ancient past — when Macedonia was a Greek kingdom ruled by, among others, Alexander the Great — or on its present-day province of Macedonia. In 1992 João de Deus Pinheiro, then Portuguese foreign minister, proposed a package solution in which the former Yugoslav republic reportedly would have been called "New Macedonia" as a way of defusing such claims.

Senhor Pinheiro's compromise proposal would have vindicated the Greek position that Macedonia, after the demise of the ancient state that bore its name, had been nothing more than a piece of geography, split up in contemporary times between Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania. But Mr Samaras refused to accept the compromise, and Mr Papaconstantinou, too, was worried by it.

In any case Constantine Mitsotakis's government had a majority of only two in parliament, and Mr Samaras was able to hold him to ransom, by threatening to withdraw the support of deputies friendly to him if Mr Mitsotakis made any move towards reconciliation with the former Yugoslav republic. Mr Mitsotakis was careful not to give him cause for such reprisals, but Mr Samaras eventually chose to topple the government in September over an economic rather than a foreign-policy issue.

Pasok won a comfortable majority in the subsequent election, and is not under a similar constraint to take an intransigent line. Despite some campaign rhetoric by Andreas Papandreou, now prime minister, who was determined not to lose votes to the nationalist appeal of Mr Samaras, his choice of Karolos Papoulias as the foreign minister indicates that the hardliners have not won the day.

Not long after taking office, Mr Papoulias informed Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, that unless its terms were met Greece would withhold recognition of the former Yugoslav republic. His letter also indicated, however, that the Greek government would take no further action to prevent other states from giving recognition, so as to avoid using up its resources of credibility on the issue.

Mr Papoulias made a tour of the Balkans in November which revealed something of the government's objectives in the region. Mr Papandreou appears to believe that America is the primary actor in the Balkans, while the European Union is going through a phase of ambiguity and confusion. He hopes, therefore, to co-operate with the Americans in working for stability there.

In the Greek view, the present situation in the Balkans offers opportunities for such co-operation. Greece has made big investments in Bulgaria, and has provided valuable support to Albania through the remittances of some 300,000 immigrant workers in the Greek labour market, for neither of which has it received much applause in Europe.

By contrast, American involvement in the region is based on one-sided support for such anti-communist stalwarts as Filip Dimitrov, the former Bulgarian prime minister, and President Sali Berisha of Albania. The thought is that the Greek socialist government could act as an intermediary in a reconciliation between the Americans and the Bulgarian and Albanian socialists who, inevitably, will replace the Democrats in the parliamentary rotation of power. In return, Greece would stand to gain from an American commitment to the territorial status quo in the Balkans.

Since the first secessionist demands began to stir in the former Yugoslavia, Greece has tried to warn its European partners against unconditional recognition of the various republics before making an effort to persuade them to agree on a confederal or commonwealth relationship. Subsequent developments, sadly, have vindicated Greek admonitions.

● *The author is director of the Hellenic Foundation for Defence and Foreign Policy.*

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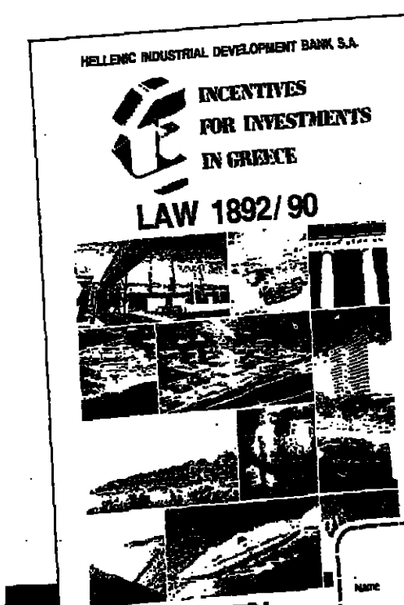


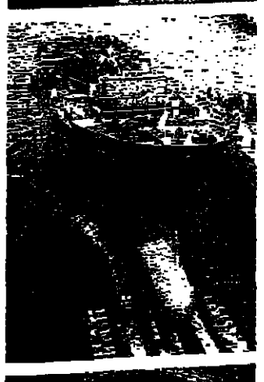
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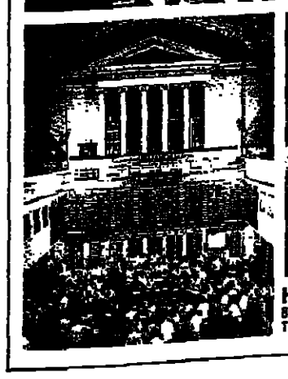
Greece's economy has a dynamic presence and a most promising future.

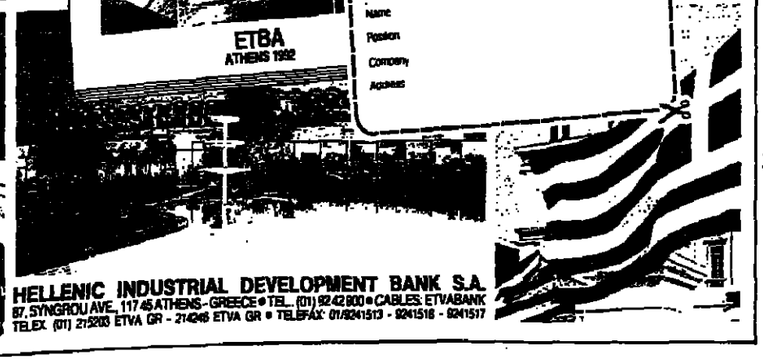












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Greeks bear gift for civilisation

Hellenic culture made a unique contribution to the world and the nation cherishes the heritage. **Peter Strafford** reports

What is Greek, or Hellenic, culture, and does it, in spite of its ancient origins, have any value in today's world? Most people would agree that it has, since ancient Greek art, literature, philosophy and, in the broadest sense, science were some of the foundation stones of Western civilisation. But in the eyes of the modern Greeks, it goes beyond that.

Today's Greeks see their culture, not as something buried in a distant past, in the days of Pericles, Alexander the Great, or the Byzantine Empire, but as a living asset, and one that should be promoted in the national interest in a competitive and dangerous world.

Last year the Greek parliament voted unanimously to set up a Foundation for Hellenic Culture. This summer it held the First World Assembly of the Friends of Hellenic Culture, for which it invited some 300 academics, politicians, writers and others from round the world to visit Greece to sample Greek culture.

The first stop was Athens, and an evening at the theatre of Herodes Atticus, built below the Acropolis in the 2nd century AD. With the Parthenon standing majestically above their heads, actors read poetry relating to Greece written in Greek, English, German, French, Italian and Spanish. The present Lord Byron was there to hear his ancestor's poem, "The isles of Greece". The following day the group set sail from Piraeus on the *Odysseus* for an island cruise.

Three islands were chosen as being outstanding examples of Greek culture — Delos, Patmos and Santorini. Delos was the birthplace of Apollo, and still has today the excavated remains of what for centuries was one of the religious and commercial centres of the ancient world. In Patmos, the group moved on to the early Christian world, seeing the island where St John is said to have had the inspiration for, and possibly written, the *Book of Revelation*.

In Santorini, also known as Thera, they went far back in time to tour the small Cycladic town, once full of wall-paintings, that was overwhelmed in a volcanic eruption in, perhaps, 1628BC.

The foundation was the brainchild of the late Professor Ioannis Georgakis, a distinguished academic, lawyer and public servant who died last month. He became the first president of the foundation, and told the visitors last June that Greek culture had "a universal dimension among mankind".

He added, in an interview with *The Times*, that the idea of the foundation stemmed from a sense of danger. "I was addressing the Foreign Policy Association in Athens, and I spoke of the pessimistic outlook of the Greeks today. We see ourselves surrounded by threatening people, and in an unhappy situation. The main positive element was Greek culture."

So the foundation will promote Greek culture, both ancient and modern. As Professor Georgakis saw it, it should not be overtly political, and should avoid nationalism. But its establishment clearly springs from Greek anxiety over developments in the Balkans, particularly the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, compounded by age-old mistrust of its large neighbour, Turkey. The Greeks are determined that the world should not forget them.

An Aegean cruise is well calculated to show Greece at its best. This summer, under a strong sun and a clear blue sky, the *Odysseus* sailed past islands that seemed to float on the water. Dolphins leapt out of the sea alongside the ship. At the small anchorage off Delos, the foundation's guests went ashore to tour an island that used to welcome pilgrims and traders in thousands.

Delos is now uninhabited except for a few custodians. But it is covered with truncated pieces of marble that testify to its grandiose past, and the wild flowers that now grow over them. There are relics of past temples, monuments, villas, a theatre and a stadium. Most strikingly, a row of archaic marble lions, donated by the Naxians in the 7th century BC, still stands.

Patmos lies further east, a hilly, arid island where St John is said to have been sent into exile from Ephesus. It has a picturesque little port, Skala, full of white, cube-shaped houses, but its main glory today is the monastery of St John, a fortress-like building, complete with battlements, which stands on the top of one of the island's hills. Clustered around the monastery are the steep, narrow streets and white houses of Chora, the capital.

St John is said to have been exiled by the Roman emperor Domitian towards the end of the 1st century. The monastery was not founded until the 11th century, but it soon became a centre of wealth and power, and still has a rich collection of icons, wall-paintings, books and church ornaments. Down below is the cave in which St John is said to have had his vision.

Santorini, the last of the three islands, is the most dramatic, since it was largely formed by the cataclysmic eruption which tore out its centre in the second millennium BC. The resulting crater was some six miles across, but part of its walls collapsed and the sea poured in, so that today ships sail into the crater, and the remaining walls tower 1,000ft above them. They are dark and menacing, while perched high above are the white houses of several of the island's towns.

In the 1960s Spiridon Marinatos, the archaeologist, discovered a town which, like Pompeii some 1,700 years later, had been overwhelmed by the eruption; and it proved to have been rich and cultivated with fine pottery and vivid paintings of people, plants, birds, animals, ships and much else.

By burying the town, the eruption preserved the achievements of one of the high points of ancient Aegean civilisation, when the culture of the Cycladic islands came into contact with that of Minoan Crete. Today many of the paintings are in the National Museum in Athens. Santorini is still waiting for a new museum of its own. But the excavations have uncovered one of the deep roots of Greek culture.



INTERNATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE

Archaeologists uncovered a cultural treasure trove on the spectacular volcanic island of Santorini

Shippers in stormy waters

The Greek shipping industry, the largest in the European Community and still growing, is preparing to lock horns with the European Commission over proposals for a common shipping policy. The Union of Greek Shipowners (UGS) is arguing that an "action plan", tabled for discussion in Brussels over the next few months, could end by damaging the international competitiveness not only of Greek-flag operations, but also of EC shipping as a whole.

The commission's plan would affect the Greek ocean-going fleet, regarded as the "workhouse" of the industry. It includes proposals for directives on a wide range of shipping matters, among them the training of officers and crew, manning levels, taxation systems, and measures to improve safety and reduce the risks of pollution.

The basic Greek position is that free and fair competition can best be ensured by worldwide implementation of the conventions of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), and not by over-regulation at EC level that could spark both a flight from all community flags and retaliatory measures by those third countries worst affected by the regulations.

As owners of by far the biggest and most successful community fleet, the Greeks also hope to persuade their partners to adopt the Greek taxation model, which is based on tonnage trading and not on financial results. And they argue that a ship's safety is a matter, not of its age alone, but of maintenance and operation.

Greece has, essentially, two merchant fleets. One, which would be affected by the recent commission proposals, consists of tankers and of dry, wet and specialised cargo carriers that ply the world's oceans. These obtain 95 per cent of their business from cross-trading. The ships are growing in number and becoming more modern.

The other is made up of the cargo/passenger ferries. Since the cutting of road and rail links through former Yugoslavia, the Italy services have become Greece's most direct communication with the EC for trade and an important means of access for tourists. There are also 30 to 40 luxury cruise liners operating out of Piraeus in peak season.

VICTOR WALKER



Acropolis, Athens.

FLY OLYMPIC AIRWAYS

THANK GOD SHE LEFT THE LIGHT ON

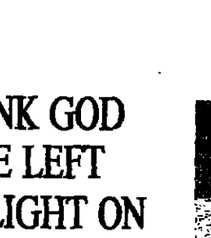


Athena. Goddess of wisdom. The source of light. The light of the ancient Greek civilization which still burns bright all over the world. But nowhere does this light burn brighter than on the Acropolis, the site of the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena, Goddess of wisdom, protector of the city of Athens.

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The Gods could have chosen light from anywhere. They chose the light of Greece.



GREECE

Chosen by the Gods

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The South European and Balkan areas as well as our company, DELTA, provide an example along these lines. Markets in these two regions are still fragmented. Market institutions are still relatively underdeveloped. Consumers usually act on the "me too" principle, i.e. there is a strong demonstration effect. Demand for food is still relatively income elastic, as incomes grow. A tendency to harmonize products does exist, yet national differences in tastes and preferences still remain strong. Rapid growth rates are more than feasible, yet they go hand-in-hand with high risks.

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- the underdevelopment of the markets as well as the lack of knowledge about the adequate functioning of market institutions necessitate patience and adaptation/adaptability.
- the importance of discovering and using local talent should not be underestimated.
- political and cultural differences should be taken into account when conducting business.
- market penetration rather than profit maximization should have the first priority, at least in the short run.

These factors represent the culmination of our successful experience in Bulgaria. An experience where we became the first Greek company to form a joint production and distribution venture and to carry out direct investment in that country. We needed a long two years to test the market, carry out negotiations (which were often on the edge of failure), bring about the modernization of the plant, set up the distribution network and begin to sell our locally produced ice-creams. Our ice-cream operation at Varna is now a going concern and results are quite satisfactory. In a 3-year period, our sales volume is expected to reach three quarters of our Greek business, where we enjoy a dominant leadership position.

Even more, however, we have acquired an important production base which will serve us well as we continue with our expansion in other Balkan countries. And, above all, we possess now a thorough knowledge of the dynamics of cross-cultural management in the Balkan peninsula.

The reason for our success in both Greece and the Balkan lies in two simple factors: first, we have learned to focus on the core business that we developed and know well. And secondly, we are trying to be the aggressive innovators, the pioneers of market transformation.

We started off as a small company producing yoghurt and distributing milk. We have managed to turn ourselves, in the short span of thirty years, into the largest Greek processor and distributor with total sales which exceed USDlrs 250 mil and profit of more than USDlrs 25 mil. Our product mix includes fresh pasteurized milk, yoghurt, chilled fruit juices, ice-cream and frozen foods. And this is coupled by an extensive intervention in the milk zone where we invested more than USDlrs 30 mil. in order to ameliorate and standardize the cows milk delivered to the firm. The fresh pasteurized and homogenized milk in gable top, the chilled, natural fruit juices in gable top and the premium ice-cream sticks are all successful innovations, and above all, they are moves that changed the marketplace and shifted consumer habits.

Our activities have now acquired an international dimension. Fruit juices will now be produced in Switzerland, where we have formed a joint venture with a local dairy, MILKO, and will be distributed to Northern Italy, the Benelux countries and Switzerland, as well as in France (where the product has been successfully market tested already under the brand name DELIOS)

A recent strategic alliance with BSN, which has acquired a 10% interest in DELTA, gives us access to the larger European market place. Both companies are better positioned to exploit new market opportunities in the Balkan and East European regions as well as to better serve existing European markets.

هكذا من الأصل

Matthäus fails to prevent world champions' unexpected defeat

Germans betray signs of decline



Matthäus: fading

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN MIAMI

A GERMAN footballer and his World Cup are not easily parted. Yet the feeling grows that 1994 will be a Latin year, that Germany, for all its renowned know-how and might, will not resist the more adaptable talents of the Brazilians, the Argentines and the Colombians next summer.

This was endorsed on Wednesday when Germany, finalists in four of the last five World Cups, were emphatically beaten by a flattering 2-1 margin by Argentina.

It was only a warm-up and certainly Germans are different when points count, but in the Champions Challenge, played before 33,221 spectators in the Orange Bowl in Miami, a near-complete German team lost to an Argentinian side shorn of six, perhaps seven, first-choice players. How strange that, in their separate camps, the Germans had appeared full of Teutonic thoroughness and self-belief while the Argentinians talked about the absence of the Great One, Diego Maradona. He is a faded artist, injured once again, and was joined in absence by the likes of Gabriel Batistuta, of Fiorentina, Fernando Redondo, of Tenerife, and others who were barred by their European clubs from travelling.

The Germans, better organised and not obliged, as Argentina had been, to scramble through qualifying rounds, had, in contrast, successfully negotiated their stars' release, in some cases from the same clubs, but this advantage was turned on its head. Alfio Basile, the Argentina manager, had won the Copa America in 1991 with virtually a new team drawn from Argentinian clubs, so he was no stranger to the art of discovering players from apparent obscurity and giving them the incentive to challenge for places on the big stage.

One of his newer players, Hernan Diaz, the defender, struck a breathtaking goal in the fifth minute. His shot from 30 yards was flighted into the breeze and cleared the right shoulder of Köpke, the German keeper.

The diminutive Hässler tried might and main to generate Germany's response. His free kick in the ninth minute was met by Möller, who scored with a free header from eight yards. Yet, as the game wore on, Germany wore out. Lothar Matthäus, soon to equal Maradona's 33 years, showed that he has never recovered the same form he enjoyed before he suffered ruptured knee ligaments and required surgery.

Matthäus, gaining his 106th cap on Wednesday, pretended to be a sweeper, an attempt to hide his lack of physical form in an alien, presumed softer position. However, Matthäus was absent, in mind and body, when Abel Balbo sprinted behind him to sore a simple headed winning goal in the second half. Several times, he lacked the alertness to protect Jürgen Kohler, his fellow defender, and the quick, alert touch players of the Argentines created far more chances than they took.

Afterwards, when Berti Vogts, the German manager, admitted that he would not blame his forwards because "they had little or no help from midfield", that, too, indicated Matthäus's inability to find his former midfield powers.

Finally, with Philip Don, the English referee, applying the stricter rule imposed by Fifa, the game's world governing body, by issuing six yellow cards in what was an exhibition game, came the full reinforcement that where rules are applied, where physical excess is outlawed, the creative talents of the warmer countries blossom.

Crisis looms as pressure increases at Maine Road

BY PETER BALL

MANCHESTER City Football Club is fast approaching crisis point. The defeat by Nottingham Forest on Wednesday was the most traumatic since Brian Horton took over as manager in August.

Now out of the Coca-Cola Cup and only three places and four points clear of the relegation zone, the club is left facing a battle for survival — a struggle it must endure without a chairman since Peter Swales's resignation and with the general manager, John Maddock, preparing to depart. Even if the appointment of a new chairman is imminent, the ownership of the club is likely to remain a bone of contention among the disaffected supporters for some time.

"We are prepared to buy City lock, stock and barrel, or just a part, but Swales and Boler have to be realistic," Colin Barlow, the spokesman for the consortium led by Francis Lee, a former City and England player, which is bidding for control, said yesterday. "They value the club at £30 million, which would be funny if it wasn't so grotesque."

Lee's group have offered to pay £8 million, although Barlow warned: "If City are relegated, it will be worth less than £3 million." In the meantime, there is nobody to sanction expenditure on players if Horton wants to strengthen his badly-depleted squad.

"We are facing a dog-fight now," Horton said sadly on Wednesday night. "But it isn't a crisis yet. We aren't in the bottom three are we, we aren't relegated yet, are we?"

Nevertheless, if the crisis is not already at Maine Road, it is looming. Horton is still refusing to get involved in the politics that undermined his position from the day he walked through the door, but he may soon have to. Even he admits the situation is taking its toll on his team.

"They're frightened to have the ball," he said of his players yesterday as he contemplated an ever-lengthening injury list, adding Steve McMahon to the absentees from Saturday's visit to Blackburn, a group that includes the influential Niall Quinn, who is missing for the rest of the season. "They are frightened of playing at home, you can see that from the results."

City have won only three home games all season and, in all, have now won only six games since his appointment. The supporters are not calling for the manager's head yet, but Horton's predecessor, Peter Reid, may reflect that Maddock's explanation for his sacking — that the team had only won five games since February — is beginning to look a bit thin.

☐ Stephen Glynne yesterday won a High Court ruling that he should have control of Barnet Football Club until a legal wrangle over shares has been decided. The orders will remain in force pending a final High Court ruling on the row between Glynne and Richard George over ownership of the majority shareholding, which might take up to two years.

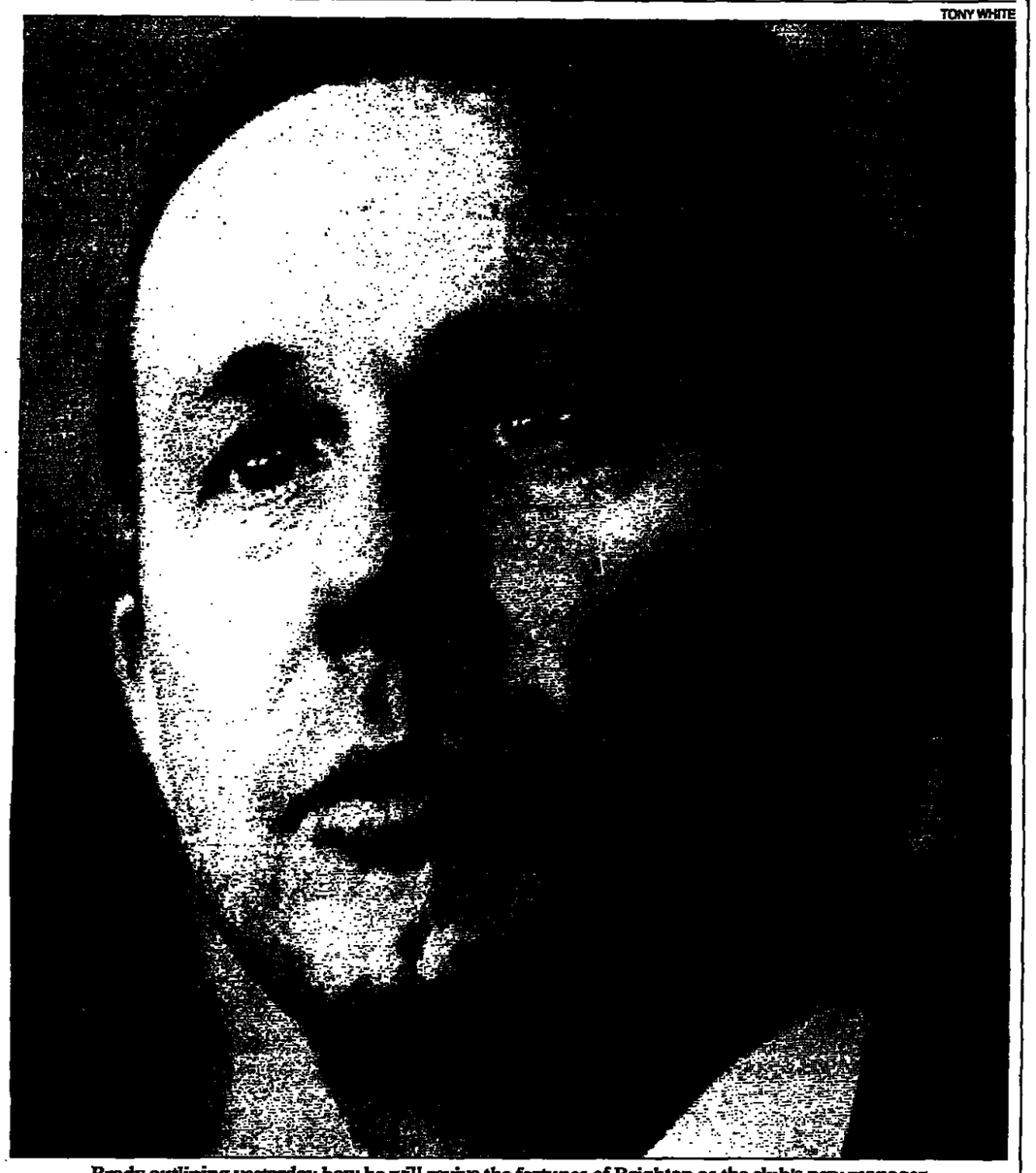


Horton: pressure



Lee: waiting

TONY WHITE



Brady outlining yesterday how he will revive the fortunes of Brighton as the club's new manager

Brighton offer Brady new challenge

LIAM Brady, who believes Brighton have the potential to become an established force in the FA Carling Premiership, acknowledged yesterday that his first job was to prevent the club being relegated to the third division (Keith Pike writes). Brady, 37, who has signed a two-year contract as manager of the Sussex club, admitted he has "a lot to prove" after two unsuccessful years in charge of Celtic, but said he was relishing the challenge.

Brighton are in their worst position for nearly two decades and crowds at the Goldstone Ground have slumped, yet Brady is confident he can reverse their fortunes: "Brighton have had hard times, but we all know this club has potential," he said. "I used to play to capacity crowds here when I was with Arsenal in the first division. I have got a lot to prove, but if I did not think I could do it I would not have taken the job. I intend to move down to Sussex as soon as possible and the club will get total commitment from me."

Brady said he had considered quitting football after resigning as Celtic manager in October, but quickly changed his mind.

"I'm pleased to get back," he said. "After two or three weeks of being out of the spotlight, I realised that football is my life and I wanted to get back into it."

Brady also played in midfield for Juventus, Internazionale and West Ham United in a distinguished career and David Bellotti, the Brighton chief executive, believes his arrival can rekindle interest in a club that earlier this month came within an hour of being wound up in the High Court over debts of £600,000.

"We don't see it as a gamble or as expensive, we see it as an investment," Bellotti said. "We wanted to appoint the best quality manager and we have achieved that. By the end of this century, we want to be in an all-seat stadium in the Premier League. That's not a vision, it's the end of our business plans."

Brady succeeds Barry Lloyd, who resigned on December 4. Martin Hinshelwood, who had been acting as caretaker manager, will stay with the club while Brady takes stock.

☐ Peterborough United, the first division club, yesterday paid Watford £150,000 to take Ken Charlery, their former striker transfer-listed this month, back to London Road. Charlery, 29, scored 19 goals in 51 league games for Peterborough before moving to Vicarage Road for £350,000 14 months ago.

World waits for Witt to unveil dance of new age



Simon Barnes reports from Herne, Germany, on the comeback of a local heroine

Tomorrow she will dance her dance to the tune of "Where have all the flowers gone?" Kind of tacky, ja? And yet the world, or much of it, will be holding its breath, in hope of the beautiful and the wonderful, in hope that she does not fall over, as she did last time out.

Katarina Witt's comeback to competitive skating is at a crucial stage. With her heart set on the Winter Olympics next year, she must finish in the first three here at the German national championships. She skates her technical programme today; tomorrow she gives her all to the music of, er, Pete Seeger.

Unending practice sessions at the Gysenberghalle in the pre-competition phases: one strident cassette follows another, violent alternations of martial trumpets and saccharine strings, while one muscly child follows another on the ice. If there is any talk of other skaters around the frigid rim of the rink, it is of whether Marina Kielmann or Tanja Szewczenho can beat Witt. Even among the skating insiders, it is all Kati, Kati, Kati. The world is waiting upon Kati.

This is not because Witt is a great competitive athlete, though she is. It is not because she is a skater of consummate grace and artistry, though she is. It is not even because she is beautiful, though she is and it needs no ghost from the grave to tell us. It is because she possesses a quality beyond beauty or grace or toughness of will. She possesses a look of almost incandescent sexuality.

It exists almost outside her, for all that she plays up to it. The desire she provokes is almost disinterested, almost pure. Blake knew all about that sort of thing and wrote about the lineaments of gratified desire.

This is something that show business seeks in a thousand women and finds but seldom. It is something that is faked again and again; Madonna, evermore-naked, reduced to a thousand for-God's-sake-notice-me extravagances, is the consummate faker. Witt has what Madonna lacks: a sexuality beyond sexiness; a sexual allure that does not depend on pose or clothes.

It is not a quality that alienates women. If Witt makes the Olympic Games — and even if she finishes in the first three here, she must go on to finish as one of the top two Germans in the European championships before she can take part — women all over the world will revel in her triumph.

What has this to do with sport? Well, everything, in a way. This blazing, disinterested sexuality has always been part of Witt's stock-in-trade as a competitive skater. Hardly unfair, either, for skating is dancing and dancing and sex are blood-brothers.

Competitive dancing on ice is not art and not sport, either. It is a kind of morganatic marriage between the two. Both families still object to the union. There is hissing across the aisle and bitter jibes forever afterwards. The artistic side of Witt has traditionally expressed itself in the portrayal of women to kill for.

How does Pete Seeger fit in with the pattern? "I was looking for a new character, after Maria (from *West Side Story*) and Carmen. I wanted to do something different. I felt I had portrayed so many seductive women. I am at the age when I want to put something across from the heart. I was looking for a new character."

She is 28 and must take on the teenaged wonders who may lack to the lineaments of gratified desire, but who can't half jump. Witt's answer is not the obvious one, which is to blast them back to the kindergarten with a frank demonstration of ice-boiling sexuality.

Instead she is going to demonstrate her grown-upness. Skating not for sex but for peace. "It is expressing the age I am now; skating for a peaceful message."

There are two reasons for this almost Beckeresque mid-life crisis. The one that she does not talk about is the end of East Germany and of her ambiguous former life as a state superstar. The other is Sarajevo, the scene of her triumph at the Winter Olympics of 1984.

It was, some old hands say, the last happy Olympics. It was certainly happy for Witt. "It is breaking my heart to see what is going on there now. I just want to show the world that we want peace." Good for Kati. But the fact is that sex has always filled more seats than peace. It has swayed more judges, too. But perhaps the Witt vision of global peace takes in the lineaments of gratified desire. A peace-starved world awaits.

Torpoint enjoy hospitable visit

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE spirit of the FA Vase was at its best during a stirring performance by Torpoint Athletic, from Cornwall, at Tunbridge Wells in a third round match last Saturday. Not only did the football flow sweetly, but the locals belied the town's reputation for going ex-directory and hiding behind closed doors by taking their visitors out for a night on the Pantiles.

Torpoint won 6-2. Straightforward, however, this handsome victory was not. Tunbridge missed an early penalty, Torpoint then took control and led 1-0 at half-time through Davison. Cusack volleyed a splendid second after half-time, but Short and Manktelow scored twice in rapid succession as Tunbridge battered at the Torpoint rearguard. Inside the final ten minutes, Cusack scored a third on the break. Cue collapse of Tunbridge. Lewis and Haigh, with two goals, took advantage.

A crowd of 191 at the Culverden Stadium watched and Peter Wager, the Tunbridge secretary, said: "We are obliged under the competition rules to pay them 16 second-class rail fares from the nearest main station to their ground and obviously we will make a loss on the game. Yet we get games in different places, make new friends and take part in the social side of football in this competition."

Tunbridge, who play in the Kent League, have entered every Vase since the first in 1974-5, but Torpoint have entered only in the past three seasons. Vic Grimwood, the secretary, said: "We had some good times in the Amateur Cup in the past and people on the committee thought it would be good to enter the Vase and test ourselves against other types of teams."

The cup run has lifted a side that finished one place off the bottom of the Jewson South Western League last season. Torpoint have lost only once all season and have beat Great Mills League sides, Crediton and Chippenham, and First Tower, from Jersey, in the Vase. "We've got only a few different players from last year, but everything has clicked together," Grimwood said.

After their overnight stay in Tunbridge Wells, it will be Torpoint's turn to extend hospitality in the next round when they entertain Diss Town, from Norfolk. Victory would bring a place in the quarter-finals, and then — with Wembley looming in increasingly excited imaginations — the elusive financial rewards are sure to follow.

FA VASE: Fourth round draw: Radcliffe Borough or Yorkshire Amateurs v Boston, Atherton LR v Thackley; Raunds v Belper, Whickham v Dunkirk; King's Lynn v Nantwich; Bridgnorth v Glossop NE; Oadby v Cogenhoe; Halstead v Wimborne; Canvey Island v Newbury; Taunton v Banstead; Whitehawk v Thame; Torpoint Athletic v Diss; Aldershot Town v Soham Town; Tiverton v Paulton; Great Wakering or Hinckley v Collier Row; Arlesey v Falmouth.

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O'Sullivan overcomes consistency of Davis

FROM PHIL YATES IN ANTWERP

RONNIE O'Sullivan overcame the best that Steve Davis had to offer as he beat the six-time world and United Kingdom snooker champion 5-3 in the quarter-finals of the European Open here yesterday.

O'Sullivan, 18, beat Davis 9-6 at the corresponding stage of the United Kingdom championship three weeks ago, and it was clear from Davis's preparation and general demeanour before the rematch, and methodically determined tempo during it, that he was intent on extracting a measure of revenge.

Although he did succeed in producing arguably his most consistent display of the season, it was not good enough. "I played well, the best I've played for ages, but the trouble was that the other bloke played better," Davis, the title-holder, said. "That is quite hard to take."

O'Sullivan was frozen out in the opening two frames as Davis made decisive breaks of 63 and 51. Davis also led 41-14 in the third only for O'Sullivan to snick in a long red to initiate a 56 clearance to pink.

A run of 86 then enabled O'Sullivan to level at 2-2 and, after Davis had recovered from 48-0 down in the fifth to regain the lead, breaks of 49 and 66 carried O'Sullivan 4-3 ahead. It was then that a power failure in the Sporthal Arena caused a suspension of play for 25 minutes.

When the match resumed, O'Sullivan added the eighth frame, thanks largely to a glaring miss on a straightforward black from Davis in the early stages.

O'Sullivan, now victorious in 17 of his last 18 matches, having captured the Benson and Hedges championship in early November, meets Jimmy White or John Higgins in the semi-finals tomorrow.

RESULT: Quarter-final: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt S Davis (Eng) 5-3.

Jury reconsiders decision

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA

THE strength of protests from yacht crews competing in the Whitbread Round the World Race led the international jury yesterday to reconsider the generous 22-hour time allowance they awarded Winston, Brad Butterworth's United States yacht, for turning back towards Brooksfield, the damaged Italian entry, during the last stage from Punta del Este, Uruguay.

The allowance lowered Winston's finishing time to within a minute of Intrum Justitia, Laurie Smith's winning entry, and appears to take no account of the fact that Butterworth and his crew were 250 miles behind Smith at the time they turned back in the Southern Ocean.

"As it stands, this allowance will affect the outcome of the race and possibly the overall Heineken Trophy," Smith said. He has now seen his yacht demoted to third place overall. Smith, together with Ross Field, who is the skipper of Yamaha, and Javier de la Gandara, leader of Galicia 93 Pescanova, Spain's entry, presented evidence suggesting that they have been prejudiced by the decision and called on the jury for a redress.

This jury, led by Marcel Leeman, is duty bound by the rules to award allowances that are fair to the entire fleet and was reminded yesterday of the precedent set in this race four years ago when Pierre Fehlmann, in Merit, went to the rescue of Martella, the capsized Finnish yacht.

The jury, also chaired by Leeman, awarded Merit the same time it took for Rothmans, Smith's yacht, to complete the course, despite the fact that Merit had been in a more favourable position to the wind and would probably have beaten the British yacht across the line.

"There is no logic to the decision this time," Fehlmann said. "The jury have been far too generous to Winston but not to La Poste, which actually went to the aid of Brooksfield and stood by them for 24 hours." Unlike Winston, which enjoyed better winds than the leaders over the final 2,000 miles of this leg, La Poste was caught in adverse weather and the time allowance awarded to it leaves the French boat in third place in the maxi class, which is where it stood at the time of the emergency. The jury chose to adjourn overnight and is expected to give a ruling today.

One crew certainly not arguing over its change of fortune is that of Women's Challenge. After struggling over the first two legs with little funding, it have won full sponsorship for the remainder of the race from Heineken.

Sue Crafer, a British member of the crew, said: "Being underfunded is like having your arm tied behind your back."

SECOND-LEG FINISHER: Whitbread 60 class: Odessa (A Verba, Ukr) 16days 55hr 27min
STILL AT SEA (at 2pm yesterday, with miles to Fremantle): Whitbread 60s: Dolphin and Youth Challenge (M Humphries, GB) 177.

Holligan aims to blow away Chávez myth



Holligan: little chance

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN PUEBLA, MEXICO

ANDY Holligan is certain that he is going to cause the boxing upset of the century here at the Cuauhtemoc stadium tomorrow — a feat that would be greater even than the achievements of Randolph Turpin, who in 1951 beat the great Sugar Ray Robinson, Lloyd Honeyghan, who stopped Donald Curry in 1986 and James 'Buster' Douglas, who knocked out Mike Tyson in 1990.

The lad from Liverpool, who is the British and Commonwealth light-welterweight champion, believes he is not only going to beat Julio César Chávez, who some experts believe is the greatest fighter, pound-for-pound, ever, by taking his World Boxing Council (WBC) light-welterweight titles away from him in his own backyard before 70,000 of his countrymen and at an altitude of 7,200ft.

Holligan is going to do this by turning boxing strategy upside down. He intends to meet the most devastating puncher in the division head on and outpunch him. Listening to Holligan and Colin Moorcroft, his trainer, talking about tactics makes you wonder if the sun and the altitude has not seriously affected them. As for the altitude, all this talks about special training is a load of bunk as far as they are concerned.

Holligan, 26, a former ABA champion, believes he is stronger than Pernell Whitaker, who last October appeared to outpoint Chávez, but was given a draw, albeit that that match was made at the heavier poundage of welterweight. "I'm stronger," Holligan said. "If you are stronger you can push Chávez back." It does not matter to Holligan that few have ever done this to the great Mexican.

When he first heard of the match five weeks ago, he was a little nervous. As he watched films of Chávez's contests, he realised that even if the rest of the world thought he had no chance at all, he believed he could do it. "As it gets nearer and nearer I get more and more confident."

Holligan and Moorcroft are convinced that Chávez is slipping and that following reports that the Mexican has not trained properly, they think they have taken the bout at just the right moment. Holligan has sparred 90 rounds since coming to Mexico nearly four weeks ago, and, apart from initial breathing troubles, he said that the altitude is not bothering him any more. "I'm going to get stronger and stronger as the fight goes on," he said yesterday. Before they packed their bags for Mexico, Moorcroft made a hurried call to an altitude training expert in the Isle of Man, but when they arrived here they simply ignored his advice and got on with training as usual.

"He said not to do too much for three days and not to go into the gym, but I just wanted to get on with it so we went straight into training," Holligan said. It was not surprising that for the first 14 days he found he could hardly breathe after climbing the three flights of stairs to his gym in Mexico City. "I felt done in just climbing those stairs with my bags," Holligan said. "But then, suddenly it clicked, I felt great and I've had no trouble since then."

Even though Holligan has had only one contest in 13 months, he looked extremely fit in training. He belted his sparring partner about the ring, flooring him three times. After that, he went through six rounds of ring and floor exercises and looked comfortable.

He is not worried about the body punches that Chávez is famous for. He has been doing over 400 sit-ups a day and believes he can take the champion's heaviest blows. "They say he's got a punch," Holligan said. "But I've never seen him knock anyone out with it."

Reports of Holligan's progress were carried to Chávez, who trains the other side of town. "I have the greatest respect for Holligan," Chávez said. "I respect him because he has not been saying bad things about me like the others. I asked for a tape of his fights but did not receive it, but those who have seen him say he looks very good."

Holligan, who was born in Kirby but now lives in Walton, won the British and Commonwealth title in 1991 but is hardly known outside Liverpool. He is unbeaten in 21 contests but that is far short of the 88 wins against only one draw — against Whitaker — that 31-year-old Chávez boasts. At present, he is self-managed but for the last five years he has been under two of the best British managers, B. J. Eastwood and Mickey Duff.

Soon after he won the ABA title in 1987 he gave up his job as painter and decorator and joined Eastwood and was unbeaten in 14 contests. He left Eastwood claiming that he was not getting enough work and joined Duff.

He appeared to be getting on well, lifting the British and Commonwealth titles and being nominated for the European championship. But somehow their temperaments did not seem to work and Holligan joined Frank Warren, a rival London promoter. It was through Warren, who is an agent of Don King, Chávez's promoter, that he found himself elevated from No 6 in the rankings to challenger. Holligan will earn his career-best purse of £80,000 for this bout.

Board's seal of approval

THE British Boxing Board of Control has no qualms about Andy Holligan taking on Julio César Chávez for the Mexican's two world light-welterweight championship belts in Puebla, Mexico (Bryan Stiles writes).

Holligan is ranked sixth in the world and holds the British and Commonwealth titles. "He has an excellent record, has been training at altitude for weeks and Chávez is said by some to be slipping," Simon Block, the assistant general secretary of the board, said in London yesterday.

"He was granted permission to take on Chávez and is fighting as the underdog, but Holligan is a strong, aggressive boxer and he will be going in with the chance of an upset, just as Lloyd Honeyghan did against Don Curry and became world champion."

Skelton stays on successful course with Olympia win

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

NICK Skelton made a rousing start to the Olympia show jumping championships yesterday, winning the Brandy Butter Stakes, the opening event of the five-day show, riding Everest Limited Edition.

Skelton's uninhibited display of jumping relegated John Whitaker and his Wembley grand prix winner, Everest Grannusch, to second place by 0.35sec. None of the other 30 riders could match these two. Markus Fuchs, of Switzerland, came closest, but he was some six seconds slower.

Skelton, 35, who is enjoying the most successful season of his 16-year career, is a show director's dream. His will to win is the same whether the class is worth £900, as it was yesterday, or £112,000, which is what he won on Everest Dollar Girl in the Calgary grand prix in September.

"A win is a win," Skelton, who was the leading rider at Olympia last year, said after the class yesterday. He would not usually take Limited Edition in a speed class but the Belgian-bred gelding, owned by Sue Welch, has been resting since the Toronto show at the beginning of November and Skelton wanted to warm him up over a smaller class before the bigger classes later in the week.

He can hardly believe the change in the horse who, last year, barely featured on the international scene. "I think he was just very green," he said. "We were told he was ready to do grands prix when we bought him two years ago but I don't think he was really much more than a novice."

His consistent performances this year, which include fourth and seventh places in the Toronto and New York World Cup qualifiers, have contributed towards the £350,000 Skelton has won this year.

Dollar Girl, who accounted for almost a third of that figure with her Calgary win, will compete in the main class tonight. Skelton, who is eleventh in the European league for the Volvo World Cup, will then decide which of the two he will ride in the World qualifier tomorrow.

Even if he wins tomorrow, Skelton will not be tempted to chase the £200,000 on offer in the new grand slam series. The third leg of the series is in Brussels in February and Skelton, refreshingly, will not let anything interfere with the two months' rest he believes his horses are due after this show.

Skelton will spend those two months pursuing a new interest, training point-to-pointers. "Racing has always been my first love," Skelton said. "I've got two point-to-pointers in the yard who'll be having their first outing on January 15, ridden by my stepbrother, Michael Jones."

Skelton was out of luck in the second class of the afternoon, the Christmas Candle Stakes, in which Whitaker was again relegated to second place, this time by his younger brother, Michael, on Everest Monsanta.

The 19-year-old Irish gelding, who won the Hickstead Derby for the third time this year and the Irish Derby for the second time, was found to be suffering from a virus after the Millstreet Show in October. Yesterday, however, he looked as fit and well as a horse half his age as he galloped effortlessly round the twisting course to record the winning time of 36.94sec.

John Whitaker, riding his new horse, Everest Bikker, on which he won in Vienna last month, put up a superb challenge to finish in 37.67sec, equal with James Fisher, on Tip Toe. David Broome, still a favourite with the noisy Olympia crowd, finished fourth on Feedback.

☐ Hartpury College, Gloucestershire, is to host the third world dressage championships for disabled riders, which take place from July 21 to 24 next year. More than 100 riders are expected to compete. £150,000 towards the £175,000 needed to run the championships has already been raised. The British team will be sponsored by Body Rock, the manufacturers of equestrian clothing.

RESULTS

BRANDY BUTTER STAKES: 1, Everest Limited Edition (N Skelton, GB), 0 fts in 47.35sec; 2, Everest Grannush (J Whitaker, GB) 0, 47.90; 3, Adellos AC Folien (M Fuchs, Switz) 0, 54.04.

CHRISTMAS CANDLE STAKES: 1 Everest Monsanta (M Whitaker, GB), 0, 36.94; equal 2, Everest Bikker (J Whitaker, GB) and Tip Toe (J Fisher, GB) 0, 37.67; 4, Feedback (D Broome, GB) 0, 39.08.



TONY WHITE

Probyn, the Wasps and England prop forward, ready to sign copies of *Upfront — The Jeff Probyn Story* that surround him in Lillywhites

England's front man props up book business

This column arrived early at Lillywhites sports shop on the south side of Piccadilly Circus. The column had a gentle wander around the cricket department, gazed at a real live scoreboard showing the batting side on 214 for seven.

Batsman No 7 had scored 43; No 8 was on one. The last wicket had fallen at 122 ... a situation that poses more questions than it answers.

A customer in a panama hat approached the white-flannelled, MCC-jerseyed assistant to glean the price of "this cricket ball".

"£7.99," says the pro.

Panama hat has a little think, then asks: "How much is that one?"

"£7.99," says the pro. "It is the same ball." Not wishing to trespass on a private grief, we move away quietly.

Inside the shop's front door is a table containing 51 copies of *Upfront — The Jeff Probyn Story*; also a bottle of Perrier and two glasses. The Wasps and England prop forward is due to arrive for a signing session at 12.30pm. To say that the place was abuzz with excitement would not be telling it like it was.

Last month, we passed W H Smith at Sloane Square and noticed a vast queue of citizens stretching down Lower Sloane Street towards the river. Lady Thatcher was due to sign copies of *The Downing Street Years*.

Outside Lillywhites there was a modicum of street theatre: a clamping van doing its business on a baker's delivery truck and half a dozen Japanese taking pictures of each other. Inside the shop it was calm. Three women — two representatives of the management, one of the publishers — chatted as they glanced at the door. Two lads were playing a computerised tennis machine; people came and people went.

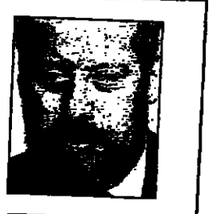
And then he came in. A big fellow in a loose mackintosh which he took off to show an open-neck grey shirt and pink blazer, he sat behind the table depicting 51 pictures of himself and two genuine shoppers approached in an orderly queue. Each bought a copy of *Upfront*, each asked for it to be signed and each took his copy to the cash desk and handed over £15.00, from which each received back 1p. A scant half-dozen shoppers provided the backdrop ... and a differently proportioned prop forward approached, gripped the microphone and spoke to us in Australian.

"Good morning," he said, amending this to "good afternoon ... welcome to the biggest sports shop in England, in fact the biggest sports store in the whole country. Today you have the opportunity to get yourself an autographed book by Jeff Probyn — whom everyone who has followed rugby will know as a great scrummager. Seriously though, many people watch rugby on TV ... when did you write this book Jeff?"

"I didn't write it," Probyn said. "It was written by Barry Newcombe."

Over the next ten minutes a trickle of book buyers came along, people who might have chatted with our star forward had the Australian provided a gap in his verbiage.

"This will make a great Christmas present for a rugby fan," he told a woman who came forward. He enquired whether she played rugby — "a lot of mixed rugby about, girls are much more violent than men". Standing behind a rack of football shirts, we rather hoped the woman would elbow the Australian where it hurt most. She disappointed.



FREUD ON FRIDAY

At 12.45 activity around the book table subsided, though the Australian continued like a real professional: "If you know anyone who would like to have this book, Jeff will sign it for you," he called into the open spaces of sports software. "He's a really human man, will talk to anyone, he's talked to me. And he certainly signed a lot of books, the pile is really diminishing and it's a really controversial book. I look forward to reading it myself. Are there going to be a lot of red faces at Twickenham, Jeff?"

Probyn mumbled something non-committal. The Australian said: "It's a good read; any good parts in it, Jeff?"

Jeff thought the parts about his youth and then about his club games and the internationals were all good.

"And you can read about the World Cup. England were in the final and lost to Australia, which came as real good news to me ... though not to Jeff — the sort of man whose background you will want to know about. If you've just arrived it was written by Barry Newcombe. If you don't want Jeff to sign the book he'll sign anything else — pieces of paper, shirts, whatever."

Behind us on Sky television, Graf was beating Fernandez again. Three boys asked Probyn to sign pieces of paper. "Shall I put Merry Christmas?" he said "Yes, please," said the boys.

And at 1.30 it was over. Twenty-three books remained. It had gone well, everybody thought, though not quite as well as Frank Bruno's signing — that had been the best.

Probyn gave us a book and signed it with good wishes. "What do you do now," we asked. He makes reproduction furniture; family business in Shoreditch. "No money in rugby unless you are the captain."

Nice man, Probyn, we thought and then, it being Christmas, felt that the Australian was a really agreeable chap also.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

LURDANE

(c) A general term of opprobrium, reproach, or abuse, implying either dullness and incapacity, or idleness and rascality, a sluggard, vagabond, loafer, from the OF *lourdin, lourd* heavy, false folk etymology from *Lord-Dane*: Milton, 1641: "Lurdane, quoth the Philosopher, thy folly is as great as thy filth."

MARCID

(b) Withered, wasted, decayed, rotten, from the Latin *marcidus* withered, *marcēre* to wither; Bowles in *Dryden's Juvenal*, 1693: "He on his own Fish pours the noblest Oil/ That to your marcid dying Herbs assign'd./ By the rank smell and taste betrays its Kind."

EXOTERIC

(a) Intelligible to outsiders, ie not esoteric, of philosophical doctrines, treatises, modes of speech, designed for or suitable for the generality of disciples, communicated to outsiders, intelligible to the public, from the Greek *exōterikos*, adjective of the comparative of *exō* outside: "Plato, like Pythagoras, had exoteric and esoteric opinions."

DIVULSION

(b) Rending asunder, being torn apart, the action of pulling, tearing or plucking asunder, from the Latin *dis-* apart + *vellere* to pluck or pull: "To sever such adhesions by sudden, forcible divulsion, is painful."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Qxd3+ 2 Qxd3 Be4 wins rook for bishop.

RESULTS RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Chicago 108 Boston 98; Philadelphia 101 Denver 93; Utah 97 Minnesota 85; San Antonio 111 Portland 91; Phoenix 110 Golden State 104; LA Clippers 110 Orlando 109; Milwaukee 96 Sacramento 86

MEN'S EUROPEAN CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final series: Group A: KV Mechelen (Bel) 77 Limoges (Fr) 69; Barcelona (Sp) 73 Olympiakos (Gr) 69.

LEAGUE TROPHY: Semi-finals: Second legs: Thames Valley Tigers 83 (Lloyd 35) Blue Circle Washing Beans 78 (Lewis 21) (Thames Valley win 177-172 on agg); Leicester City Riders 84 (Waldron 24) Proton Manchester Giants 90 (Fite 21) (Manchester win 176-159 on agg).

CRICKET

Melbourne
World Series Cup

AUSTRALIA

M L Hayden c Cairns b Pringle	5
M A Taylor c Blain b Cairns	81
M E Waugh c Rutherford b de Groen	53
D C Boon c Morrison b de Groen	14
S R Waugh raised hurl	25
*A R Border run out	9
†I A Healy not out	5
Extras (lb 7, w 3)	10
Total (5 wkts, 50 overs)	202

P R Reiffel, S K Warne, T B A May and C J McDermott did not bat.

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-97, 3-131, 4-183, 5-202.

BOWLING: Pringle 9-1-39-1; Morrison 7-2-17-0; De Groen 10-0-40-2; Cairns 7-0-33-1; Larsen 10-0-57-0; Thomson 7-0-22-0.

NEW ZEALAND

B A Young lbw b McDermott	0
R T Latham st Healy b Warne	39
*K R Rutherford b M Waugh	39
M J Greatbatch lbw b Warne	41
C L Cairns c Healy b Warne	5
S A Thomson c Border b McDermott	42
†T E Blain c Border b Warne	1
G R Larsen b M Waugh	17
C Pringle run out	4
D K Morrison not out	2
R P de Groen not out	2
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 1)	7
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	199

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 2-66 3-99 4-109 5-146 6-154 7-187 8-193 9-194.

BOWLING: McDermott 9-1-40-2; Reiffel 10-1-44-0; M Waugh 9-0-42-2; May 10-0-35-0; Warne 10-1-19-4; Border 2-0-13-0

Man of the match: S K Warne (Australia).

Colombo
One-day International

WEST INDIES

D L Haynes c and b Anurasiri	51
B C Lara c Mahanama b Jayasuriya	65
P V Simmons c Wickremasinghe b Kalpage	10
K L T Arthurton not out	50
*R B Richardson b Kalpage	15
C L Hooper c Tillekeratne b Kalpage	4
A C Cummins run out	1
†J C Adams lbw b Kalpage	0
W K M Benjamin b Liyanage	11
C E L Ambrose not out	2
Extras (lb 9, nb 2, w 9)	20
Total (8 wkts, 49 overs)	229

C A Walsh did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-128, 2-135, 3-155, 4-184, 5-194, 6-195, 7-195, 8-223

BOWLING: Wickremasinghe 8-0-40-0; Liyanage 8-0-39-1; Kalpage 10-0-45-4; Anurasiri 10-0-32-1; Ranatunga 2-0-16-0; Jayasuriya 10-0-41-1; de Silva 1-0-10-0.

SRI LANKA

R S Mahanama c Larsen b Cummins	18
S T Jayasuriya c Adams b Walsh	11
†H P Tillekeratne b Hooper	26
P A de Silva c Hooper b Cummins	51
*A Ranatunga not out	65
R Kalpage lbw Cummins	1
R Kaluwitharana lbw Cummins	2
H Wickremaratne b Ambrose	3
D Liyanage not out	11
Extras (b4, lb9, nb10, w16)	41
Total (7 wkts, 48.1 overs)	230

S D Anurasiri and G P Wickremasinghe did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-40, 3-120, 4-180, 5-187, 6-189, 7-208.

BOWLING: Ambrose 9-0-49-1; Walsh 8 1-0-31-1; Cummins 10-0-33-4; Benjamin 10-0-50-0; Hooper 7-0-33-1; Arthurton 4-0-21-0.

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Second round replay: Nuneaton 0 Bournemouth 1.

COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round replays: Manchester City 1 Nottingham Forest 2; Portsmouth 1 Peterborough 0 (aet).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Hearts 2 Motherwell 3.

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Oxford Utd 1 Millwall 3; Southampton 0 Bristol City 1; Wimbledon 1 Ipswich 0. Postponed: Swindon v Bristol Rovers; Tottenham v Charlton. Second division: Torquay 3 Bournemouth 0. Postponed: Swansea v Exeter; Yeovil v Birmingham. League Cup: Postponed: Hereford v Cheltenham.

FOOTBALL

Endsleigh Insurance League
Second division

Fulham v Hartlepool (7.45)
Rotherham v Wrexham (7.30)
Stockport v Plymouth (7.30)

Third division

Crewe v Preston (all ticket, 7.30)
Doncaster v Chester (7.30)
Shrewsbury v Mansfield (7.30)

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Norwich v Luton (7.30).

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Worksop v Warrington.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohemians v Shamrock Rovers (8.0); Drogheda Utd v Derry City (7.45).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

St Helens v Hull KR (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia championships.

FOOTBALL

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 3 Sheff Wed 0; Newcastle 5 Everton 3; Wolverhampton 1 Coventry 1; York 1 Sunderland 1; Postponed: Liverpool v Bolton. Second division: Barnsley 2 Hull 0. Postponed: Huddersfield v Middlesbrough; Scunthorpe v Rotherham

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Notts County 0 Derby County 3.

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Fourth round: Flint Town Utd 3 Briton Ferry 0; Inter Cardiff 3 Porthcawl 0.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Montpellier 0 Marseilles 2.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Second division: Postponed: Edgware Town v Ranham Town. League Cup: Second round replay: Harrow Borough 3 Thame Utd 3 (Harrow win 5-4 on pens). Third round: Chesham Utd 3 Grays Athletic 2.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Germany 1 Argentina 2 (in Miami, Florida).

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Dr Martens Cup: Third round: Salisbury City 1 Trowbridge Town 0; Tonbridge AFC 4 Margate 1; Corby Town 2 Cambridge City 1.

ITALIAN CUP: Third round: Second legs: Piacenza 1 AC Milan 0 (Piacenza win 2-1 on agg); Torino 0 Atalanta 0 (Torino win 3-0 on agg); Avellino 2 Ancona 2 (Ancona win 3-2 on agg); Venezia 0 Fiorentina 0 (Venezia win 2-1 on agg), Brescia 2 Parma 3 (Parma win 4-3 on agg); Foggia 2 Cosena 0 (Foggia win 2-1 on agg); Internazionale 2 Udinese 1 (Internazionale win 2-1 on agg).

ICE HOCKEY

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Great Britain 5 (R Brabant 3, S Morrison, T Bidner) Denmark 0 (in Blackburn).

MOSCOW: Izvestia Cup: Russia 5, United States 1; France 2, Canada 0.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE: NY Rangers 5 Hartford 2; Tampa Bay 4 Ottawa 3; Boston 5 New Jersey 4; Anaheim 1 Toronto 0; Florida 3 Montreal 3, Chicago 3 Dallas 2; Edmonton 7 Vancouver 2.

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS: Canford 13 AC Grammer, Brecknore 6; Famborough 5 St Bartholomews, Newbury 22; St Paul's 17 Glenelmond 6.

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: British Under-24 championships: Second round: P Paterson bt J Wilcocks 6-0, 5-6, 6-3; B McFarlane (Aus) bt D Reid 6-0, 6-2; A Snelgrove bt M Coghlan 6-2, 6-0; M Ward bt M Jones 6-3, 6-0; C Swallow bt J Acheson-Gray 6-3, 5-6, 6-2; A Lyons bt S King 6-0, 6-0. Under-21 championships: R Gunn bt A Roberts-Miller 6-3, 6-0; J Walsh bt T Brodowe 6-4, 6-4; S King bt B Ronaldson 6-2, 6-3; M Hagney bt N Baker 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; B Chrystie bt G King 6-0, 6-0; J Wilcocks bt M Brissowe 6-1, 6-0; A Snelgrove bt C Acheson-Gray 6-0, 6-0.

QUEEN'S CLUB: Field Trophy national inter-club championships: quarter-final: Queen's Club bt Petworth House 3-2 (Queen's names first): 1, J Snow bt M Drysdale 6-0, 6-1; A Curley bt P Paterson 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; W Mallby bt C Pearse 6-1, 6-3; B Cave and J Prann lost to N Pancroph and J Rothman 3-6, 2-6; P Wilkinson, G Devereux lost to D Reid and B Fairbarns 3-6, 2-6

هكذا من الأصل

Void Kelso chase leaves officials blushing again

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

RACING ground to a halt in controversial circumstances at Kelso yesterday when runners in the Queens Head Kelso Novices' Chase were unable to jump the eleventh fence after Clare Coast lay prostrate on the landing side. The horse had earlier fallen at the same fence on the first circuit and was subsequently destroyed. The race was declared void.

As the field approached the obstacle jockeys saw that the fence had been coned off after an advance flagman had earlier alerted them to the hazard ahead. However, as they bypassed the obstacle, jockeys heard Ian Gibson, the race-

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TRIMLOUGH
(3.00 Uttoxeter)
Next best: Roc Color
(1.40 Market Rasen)

course veterinary surgeon, shouting at them to continue.

Six of the runners were pulled up but six others continued, with the well-backed Clyde Ranger eventually passing the winning post ahead of Arthur's Minstrel. Clyde Ranger's jockey, Chris Grant, was among those confused by Gibson's remarks.

"The fence was completely dolled off and I could hear someone shouting: 'It's official.' But what is official in these circumstances when everything happens so quickly?" Grant asked. "However, it could have been worse. It could have been the Grand National."

Under Rule 152 (vi) of the Rules of Racing, the Kelso stewards had no option but to declare the race a non-event. The relevant rule states: "Where, because of an accident a fence or hurdle cannot be jumped, the race shall be declared void." Gibson's actions suggest he was completely unaware of that rule.

Under the circumstances the Kelso executive was fortunate that the subsequent fall of Garcall, who came down at what would have been the twelfth fence, did not result in injury to either horse or rider.



Grant was confused by instructions from racecourse vet

On this occasion the field was able to bypass the coned-off fence. The race could have continued from that point, but Jockey Club director of public affairs, David Pipe, stressed the need for uniform rules at all racecourses.

"The void race rule was looked at in great detail by the Parker Bowles working group," Pipe said. "The group concluded that, although it is unsatisfactory in some cases, it would be more confusing to have different rules for different racecourses. You simply can't get round the obstacles at most racecourses, as they could at Kelso on this occasion."

Pipe left little doubt as to Gibson's role in the affair. "Only recently we sent out reminders to all courses about the duties of racecourse staff. The veterinary surgeon present had clearly not learned the rules. To say it is thoroughly irritating is putting it mildly."

Responsibility for racecourse staff ultimately rests with the clerk of the course, John Fenwicke-Clennell, who is sure to be summoned to Portman Square in due course to explain himself and the actions of his staff to the disciplinary committee. First, the Kelso stewards will submit their official report to the Jockey Club.

Even thought Clyde Ranger's owner, Ian Bray, took a philosophical view, this sequence of events was all too reminiscent of the Grand National fiasco in that racecourse officials and jockeys alike seemed unsure of the correct procedure.

For events to have again disintegrated to an almost farcical level suggests lessons offered by the National's spectacular collapse in April have not been learned.

These are sensitive times for the sport, and the least one can expect in the light of the Aintree disaster is for racecourse staff to be fully aware of their responsibilities. Incidents of this nature have become far too common place on British racecourses for them to be ignored any longer.

The Kelso executive is to give £50 to each of the 15 owners with runners in the race as a gesture of goodwill.

Impasse as Aga waits for full text on drug testing

ATTEMPTS to persuade the Aga Khan to end his three-year boycott of British racing appear to be in deadlock again.

Two months after welcoming Jockey Club plans to introduce important changes to anti-doping policies, the Aga is still waiting to see a copy of the European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee (EHSLC) report on drug-testing procedures.

The Jockey Club's acceptance of the report's recommendations, which address many of the concerns raised by the Aga in the wake of the Aliysa case, appeared to have smoothed the way for his return to British racing by the start of the next Flat season.

Christoper Foster, secretary to the Jockey Club, offered a personal briefing that would "explain the recommendations and the philosophy behind the report".

"We are still waiting for a copy of the full report," Matthew McCloy, the Aga's solicitor, said yesterday. "There is nothing to discuss until the Aga's team have had the chance to examine it fully.

"The synopsis of the report, which was presented to the press in October, contains some good material and we were optimistic that things could be carried forward. But we have yet to see the EHSLC report and, sadly, the momentum has been lost. We made this known at the time but so far the Jockey Club has failed to respond."

The Aga withdrew 90 horses from Britain in 1990 following the disqualification of his Aliysa from first place in the 1989 Oaks for failing a drug test. His string has subsequently been based in Ireland and France.

However, the impressive victory of his Manntari in Ireland's National Stakes encouraged bookmakers, anticipating the Aga's return, to instal the John Oxx-trained colt as favourite for next season's 2,000 Guineas which has a closing entry date of March 2.

"His Highness will not reconsider his position until his concerns are addressed, though not necessarily implemented, because he appreciates that this can take time," McCloy said.

"He would very much like to continue to race in Britain, but while the information is encouraging it is no more than that, and we do not know whether the matters that concern him have been addressed."

David Pipe, the Jockey Club director of public affairs, said that correspondence was continuing with the Aga. "The Aga Khan was sent the package that the press received with the offer of a briefing," he said. "We are in direct correspondence with the Aga himself, but I can't comment at all as to whether he has received the full report because that correspondence is private."

Peter Beaumont, Jodami's trainer, who is still awaiting tests taken on his Gold Cup winner after his defeat in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow, is to shut down operations at his Brandsby base until the end of the month. Beaumont reports that Jodami seems fine and he is hoping to run his champion next in the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock on January 22.

Fascinating contrast in routes taken by two champions

IN 1973, a bookmaker's son named Martin Pipe took out a permit to train a handful of moderate horses for his father in the west country. "My knowledge was lacking and my experience was nil," he said. "I can remember telling Dad the horses were mad fresh because it had been raining for three days."

The same year, Robert Sangster, heir to the Vernons pools fortune, made his first trip to the Keeneland sales in Kentucky. The visit was the initial step in a journey that saw him splash out millions of dollars on top pedigree thoroughbreds.

Twenty years on, the duo are household names in British racing — and the subject of the best two racing books published this year. (The Pipe book has been re-published in paperback).

The contrast between *Martin Pipe: The Champion Trainer's Story* and *Horsetrader* is as stark as the routes the two men travelled to reach the top.

The Sangster book is not just the story of the rise and dramatic fall in the bloodstock market seen through the eyes of one of the key players — important as that is in Turf history. This beautifully written book gives a wonderful insight into the characters, mostly from Ireland, involved in the rollercoaster gamble which ended with Sangster slugging it out with the oil-rich shaikhs from Dubai.

Patrick Robinson, assisted by Nick Robinson, has also captured the excitement, the thrill and the despondency which go hand in hand in racing at any level. It is simply the most enjoyable racing book I have read in years.

Pipe collaborated with Richard Pitman to tell the remarkable story of how he rose to become the undisputed National Hunt champion trainer. The style is very different, with Pipe, his father Dave, friends and members

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

of the stable, describing in their own words, the triumphs and disappointments, the gambles landed, and (occasionally) lost.

Updated and in paperback, the book reveals some of Pipe's secrets in preparing horses to win and I know of at least one leading Flat trainer who has pored over the contents, line by line, and modified his training techniques as a result. If it is good enough for Pipe's training rivals, it is certainly good enough for any racing fan.

Each year I rave about the publications produced by John Whitley at *Racing Research*, and then face a rebuke from colleagues who prefer to keep his books a closely guarded secret. *Computer Chasing Form 1993*, which gives time and form ratings and the circumstances in which they were achieved for every horse that ran in Britain, stretching back three years, is lengths ahead of any other racing form book and is a must for the serious punter.

Andy Beyer has revolutionised racetrack betting in the United States by popularising the use of speed figures which are now listed in the country's daily racing paper.

A columnist on the *Washington Post*, he writes entertainingly about betting, and his latest book, *Beyer On Speed*, offers some valuable insights, which are just as applicable at York and Sandown as they are at Santa Anita and Churchill Downs.

Martin Pipe: The Champion Trainer's Story (Headline, price £5.99).
Horsetrader (Harper Collins, £20).
Computer Chasing Form 1993 (Racing Research, £48).
Beyer On Speed (Houghton Mifflin, $22.95).

RICHARD EVANS

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAYS THREE MEETINGS

Towcester

Going: heavy

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, RELKEEL (A Maguire, 7-1). 2, Trying Again (P Holley, 12-1); 3, Gorteera (M Brennan, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 6-4 fav Ballet Royal (4th), 8 Island Blade, 12 Mr Iav Ballet Royal (4th), 8 Island Blade, 12 Mr Clancy, 16 Spanish Blaze, 20 Arctic Life (f), 33 Le Baron Perche, Makes Me Goosey (5th), 50 Bandmaster (pu). Bennys Special, Bnc Lane (pu), The Grey Texan, The Portsoy Loon (6th). 15 ran. NR, Barna Boy. 1¼l, 6l, 2l, 15l, 10l. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote: £8.70; £2.00, £2.80, £1.20. DF: £37.30 CSF: £90.45.

1.00 (2m 6l ch) 1, FINO (A Maguire, 5-1); 2, River Mandate (B Powell, 6-1), 3, Judges Fancy (C Llewellyn, 5-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 3 Suffolk Road (pu), 7-2 Precipice Run (4th), 20 No Light (pu), One More Run (ur), 33 Mistress McKenzie (f), Vital Score (f), 50 Deep In Greek (pu), 10 ran. Nk, 8l, dist. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote £6.60; £1.70, £2.10, £1.20. DF: £32.50 CSF: £34.34 After stewards' enquiry, result stood.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, PORT IN A STORM (E Husband, 11-4), 2, Private Jet (A Thornton, 4-1), 3, Nordic Beat (R Farrant, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Tynron Doon (4th), 6 Pearly White (5th), 8 Absolutley Foxed (f), 12 Captain Tandy (pu), 7 ran. 5l, 6l, 4l, dist. N Tinkler at Malton. Tote £3.30; £2.60, £3.60. DF: £12.80 CSF: £13.85. Winner bought in for 5,200gns.

2.00 (3m 1f ch) 1, DO BE BRIEF (L O'Hara, 3-1 fav); 2, Cythera (P Hide, 7-2), 3, Invasion (M Brennan, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 6 Brompton Road (4th), 7-2 Bow Of Oels (pu), 9 Bit Of A Clown (5th), 16 Sirrah Jay (f) 7 ran. NR: Woodlands Genhire ¾l, 10l, 5l, dist. Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £3.70; £2.00, £2.20 DF £9.90 CSF: £13.25. Tricast £48.56.

2.30 (2m 110yd ch) 1, THREEOUTOFFOUR (M Brennan, 11-2), 2, Dollroe (M Dwyer, 7-4), 3, Spree Cross (D Murphy, 4-1) ALSO RAN: 8-4 fav Rejonus (4th), 33 Master Comedy (5th) 5 ran 2l, 12l, 3l, dist. O Brennan at Newark. Tote £5.60; £1.60, £1.50. DF: £6 10. CSF £15 17

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, CARPET SLIPPERS (D Murphy, 6-1); 2, Ninita (R Dunwoody, 7-2), 3, Fortune's Girl (A Maguire, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Place Stephanie (5th), 6 What Do You Think, 14 Polly Minor, 20 Caplrinha, 25 Ozone Lass (pu), 33 Flapping Freda (6th), Making Time (4th), Romany Traveller 11 ran. 6l, 6l, 5l, 1¼l, ¼l. Mrs D Haine at Newmarket. Tote: £5.30, £2.00, £2.10, £1.30 DF £13.20 CSF £27.56.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £21,165.05 carried forward to Market Rasen today).

Placepot: £70.40.

Kelso

Going: Soft, goood to soft in places (chase course): soft, heavy in places (hurdles)

12.10 (2m 6l 110yd hdle) 1, DIG DEEPER (P Niven, 3-1); 2, Par-Bar (L Wyer, 16-1); 3, Barney Rubble (M Moloney, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 6-5 fav Ariadier (4th), 7-2 Strong Deel (pu), 20 Over The Odds (f), Rallying Cry (pu), 50 Rhyming Thomas (6th), 66 Finnow Quay (pu), 100 Polly Purlong (pu), Mossman (5th), Rusty Blade (pu) 12 ran. 2¼l, 20l, 4l, 6l, 15l. J J O'Neill at Penrith. Tote: £3.60; £1.70, £7.70, £1.80. DF: £158.60 CSF: £44.59.

12.40 (2m 6l 110yd ch) Race declared void owing to horses having omitted the 11th fence.

1.10 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, LINNGATE (T Reed, 4-5 fav); 2, Chief Minister (P Harley, 7-4); 3, The Whistle Weevil (M Moloney, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 14 Montrave (4th), 33 Marco-Pierre, Stoney Brook, Tico Gold, 50 Camden Grove (pu), Corston Racer (6th), Highlandman, London Hill (5th), Sloddaw Calypso (pu), 66 Tauvalara (pu), 100 Call The Shots, Clan Reel. 15 ran. NR: The Major General. 2l, 15l, sh hd, nk, 8l, L Lungo at Carruthers town. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £1.30, £2.20 DF: £2.00. CSF: £2.67.

1.40 (3m 4f ch) 1, PLENTY CRACK (B Storey, 7-2); 2, Run Pet Run (A Dobbin, 2-1 fav), 3, Over The Deal (A Orkney, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Pink Gin (4th), 15-2 Off The Bru (5th), 9 Tartan Tynant (f), 25 Abercromby Chief (pu). 7 ran 6l, 6l, 15l, 15l, B Mactaggart at Hawick. Tote: £5.00; £1 90, £1 40 DF: £3 50. CSF: £10.46.

2.10 (2m 6l 110yd hdle) 1, BELLS HILL (A Dobbin, 9-1); 2, Scotton Banks (L Wyer, 4-6 fav); 3, Son Of Ire (P Niven, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Snawwell (pu), 10 Kirkton Grey (4th), 14 Russian Camels (5th), 16 Howcleuch (pu), 33 Paddy Montssey (6th), Royal Surprise 9 ran. NR Just A Light, Stepdaughter. Nk, 30l, 6l, 3½l, 10l. J Barclay at Leslie. Tote: £8.00; £2.20, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £8 40. CSF: £16 59.

2.40 (2m 1f ch) 1, TERRIBLE GEL (P Niven, 6-4); 2, Positive Action (A Dobbin, 5-4 fav); 3, Silver Haze (K Jones, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Beldine (f), 14 Pura Money (4th). 5 ran. 12l, 8l, 7l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £1.50. DF: £2.50 CSF: £3 48.

3.10 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, ARAGON AYR (D J Moffatt, 33-1); 2, Wee Wizard (A Dobbin, 6-1); 3, It's The Pits (F Perratt, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Palacagate King (4th), 5 Sweet City, 10 Cheeky Pol, 14 Bay Tem (5th), 16 Personal Hazard (6th), 50 Mangrove Mist. 9 ran. 1½l, ¾l, 3½l, 2l, 7l. P Monteith at Rosewell. Tote: £29.50; £3.20, £1.70, £1.70. DF: £55.80. Trio: £191.70. CSF: £190.29. Tricast: £484.63 Placepot: £16.00.

1-2 Man To Man, 6-1 Hit The Fan, 14-1 Fun Money, Princeltope, 16-1 others.

Top-rated at 33-1

The Times Private Handicapper (Gerald Hubbard) selected Aragon Ayr (33-1) among his top-rated winners at Kelso yesterday.

Southwell

Going: standard

12.20 (1m) 1, Collector General (Paul Eddery, 10-1); 2, Little Miner (10-1); 3, Dragon Man (7-1). Valiant Man 2-1 fav. 13 ran. ½l, 10l. Jimmy Fitzgerald. Tote: £6.80; £2.40, £4.40, £4.40. DF: £45.70. CSF: £101.16

12.50 (6f) 1, Make Mine A Double (Alex Greaves, 12-1); 2, Kanniska (5-2 fav); 3, Farmer Jock (12-1) 16 ran. ½l, 2l. D Nicholls. Tote: £9.00; £2.90, £1 30, £4.40. DF: £23.90. CSF: £40 04.

1.20 (1m) 1, Northern Storm (D Biggs, 8-2); 2, Upper Grosvenor (5-1); 3, Cruising Chick (10-1). Dams Prospect 7-2 fav. 13 ran 1¼l, 10l. S Woods. Tote: £5.40; £1.30, £1.90, £5.10. DF: £11.20. CSF: £26 16.

1.50 (1m 3f) 1, Holy Wanderer (J Williams, 11-1); 2, Hiltzah (15-8 fav); 3, Mad Militant (10-1). 9 ran, NR: Brackenthwaite. ½l, ½l. D Arbuthnot. Tote: £15.40; £2.30, £1.10, £3.20. DF: £58.20. CSF: £31.16. Tricast: £202.18. Tote Trio Dw £72.20.

2.20 (5f) 1, Muzz (T Williams, 15-2); 2, Roving Minstrel (8-1); 3, Henry The Hawk (14-1) Croft Pool 11-4 fav. 16 ran. ¾l, 2l. M Johnston. Tote: £5.90; £2.70, £2.40, £5.70. DF: £38.90 CSF: £69 33.

2.50 (5f) 1, Indy Express (J O'Reilly, 33-1); 2, Kalar (14-1); 3, Grand Time (9-2 fav); 4, Tee-Emm (5-1) 17 ran 1½l, ¾l A Hambly. Tote: £40.10; £9 10, £5.60, £2.10, £1.70. DF: £187.30. Tno: £1,822.00. CSF: £413.42. Tricast: £2,253.16.

3.20 (1m 6f) 1, Absalom's Pillar (N Carlisle, 7-1), 2, Arctic Guest (6-1); 3, Well And Truly (16-1). 4, Eurohwist (5-1 jt-fav). Flyaway 5-1 jt-fav. 17 ran, ½l, 3l. J Hetherton. Tote: £9.50, £1.80, £2.70, £3.60, £1.50. DF: £11.50. Trio: £88.60. CSF: £49.81. Tricast: £623 64 Placepot: £278.80.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

12.40 Raggerty
1.10 Maureen's Fancy
1.40 Bellton
2.10 Young Miner
2.40 Le Ginno
3.10 Doradus

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.10 RATIFY.

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY PATCHES STRAIGHT (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT IN BACK STRAIGHT (HURDLES) SIS

12.40 PRE CHRISTMAS NOVICES SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,749: 2m 1f 110yd) (8 runners)

101	234-310	RED INK 4 (F) (J Hughes) J Jenkins 4-11-10	B McCourt	9	
102	36805-F	YAAFOOR 10 (P Hedger) P Hedger 4-11-10	M Richards	9	
103	P5366-0	COOL SOCIETY 20 (GDRC Owners Group) W Musson 4-11-4	D Murphy	9	
104	0115	RAGGERTY 10 (BF,S) (M Honeyman) G Moore 3-11-3	N Bentley (3)	9	
105	350	DUNBAR 22 (B) (D Barker) C Thornton 3-10-11	D Wilkinson	8	
106	246200	WINGED WHISPER 18 (K Tomlinson) J Pickering 4-10-5	N Williamson	(5)	
107	003	BITRAN 14 (Mrs C Morgan) K Morgan 9-10-4	A S Smith	8	
108	436004	ALIZARI 27 (B) (Newbridge Stables) J Mooney 4-10-0	M Robinson	9	

Long handicap: Alizari 9-12.

BETTING: 5-2 Raggerty, 4-1 Cool Society, 9-2 Red Ink, 5-1 Winged Whisper, 7-1 Dunbar, 10-1 Alizari, Bitra 14-1 Yaafoor.

1992: TIP IT IN 3-11-1 S Turner (14-1) A Smith 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

RED INK's best effort came when beating Hajeb 14l in an 8-runner selling hurdle at Worcester (2m, soft). COOL SOCIETY's best effort came when 10l 3rd of 15 to Mobilhel in a novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110y, firm). RAGGERTY beat Great Essaby 16l in a 12-runner claiming novice hurdle at Newcastle on penultimate start (2m 110y, good to soft). Previously, best Regal Romper 1l in a 13-runner selling hurdle at Hexham (2m, good to soft) with DUNBAR (6lb better off) 12l 3rd. WINGED WHISPER's best effort came when 25l 2nd of 7 to Great Seago in a conditional jockeys' selling handicap hurdle at Southwell (AW, 2m, standard) BITRAN 22l 3rd of 7 to Touch Silver in a claiming novice hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to soft). Selection: RED INK

1.10 CLUGSTON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,041: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

201	3032/1-	ASTINGS 200 (S) (W Farrell) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-12-0	M Dwyer	-	
202	0-20	BUCKWHEAT LAD 28 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 5-11-12	C Grant	9	
203	535F03	MIDDAY SHOW 3 (B,S) (F Sheridan) J Jenkins 6-10-13	G McCourt	9	
204	P/5461	WE'RE IN THE MONEY 14 (B,S) (Agate, Evans & Morley) J Wharton 9-10-13	B Dalton	(5)	
205	/006/6P	HUNTING COUNTRY 14 (D Harrison) J J O'Neill 9-10-13	N Williamson	-	
206	F-42612	MAUREEN'S FANCY 31 (Mrs B Cooney) J Parfes 8-10-13	N Smith	-	

BETTING: 9-4 Astings, 11-4 Maureen's Fancy, 7-2 We're In The Money, 4-1 Beckwheat Lad, 8-1 Midday Show 14-1 Hunting Country.

1992: BOWL OF OATS 8-11-9 S McNeill (5-1) A Turnell 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

ASTINGS beat Sopernar 5l in an 8-runner maiden hurdle at Carlisle (2m 6f, soft). BUCKWHEAT LAD's best effort came when 21¼l 2nd of 6 to Tartan Tradewinds in a novice chase at Carlisle (2m 4f 110y, good). WE'RE IN THE MONEY beat Lady's Island 20l in a 6-runner novice handicap chase at Nottingham (2m 5f 110y, good). MAUREEN'S FANCY 15l 2nd of 12 to Sweet Noble in a conditional jockeys' novice handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110y, good to soft), with HUNTING COUNTRY (1lb better off) 5½l 10th. Selection: BUCKWHEAT LAD

1.40 NEWARK STORAGE NOVICES CHASE
(£4,175: 2m 1f 110yd) (5 runners)

301	62121-2	BELLTON 65 (F,S) (R Green) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-2	M Dwyer	(5)	
302	114432/	CONSTRUCTION 577 (F) (N T Racing) R Ingram 8-11-2	R Supple	-	
303	P120-08	GYMCRAK STARDOM 34 (B,S) (Gymcrak Racing) G Holmes 7-11-2	L Wyer	7	
304	51P/030-	HIGHLY DECORATED 249 (S) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 8-11-2	Gary Lyons	-	
305	15-11241	ROC COLOR 10 (B,S) (Mrs S McCarthy) C Brooks 4-10-11	B Bradley	9	

BETTING: 1-2 Bellton, 9-4 Roc Color, 7-1 Gymcrak Stardom, 16-1 Construction, 20-1 Highly Decorated.

1992: PHILS PRIDE 8-11-8 D Byrne (11-10 fav) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

BELLTON fell 2nd of 4 to Coulton in a novice chase at Wetherby (2m, soft). Previously, beat Straits Royal 7l in a 7-runner novice hurdle over the same course and distance (heavy). CONSTRUCTION's most recent form was when 23l 4th of 8 to Michael's Dawn in a novice hurdle at Ludlow in May 1992 (2m 5f, good to firm). GYMCRAK STARDOM 20l 6th of 10 to Classic Contact in a novice chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good). HIGHLY DECORATED put up best effort when 6l 3rd of 13 to Kirsienbosch in a claiming hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). ROC COLOR beat Galaxy High 31½l in a 7-runner novice chase at Plumpton (2m, soft). Selection: ROC COLOR

2.10 HUGH BOURN DEVELOPMENTS HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,255: 3m 1f) (3 runners)

401	115-4FF	RIFLE RANGE 13 (D,C,S) (C Murphy) J J O'Neill 10-11-10	M Williamson	9	
402	211P14-	MATT REID 233 (D,C,S) (W Morgan) J Leigh 9-10-6	M Dwyer	9	
403	3821P-1	YOUNG MINER 27 (CD,C,S) Mrs T Mcinnes Skinner 7-10-0	G Upton	(5)	

Long handicap: Young Miner 9-8.

BETTING: Evens Young Miner, 2-1 Rifle Range, 5-2 Matt Reid

1992: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

RIFLE RANGE's best effort came when beating Roscoe Harvey 7l in a 5-runner handicap chase at Haydock last season (2m 4l, soft). MATT REID 24l61 4th of 10 to Kenny Orchid in a hurdler chase at Punchestown (3m 1l, yielding). Previously, beat Bob-A-Ru ½l in a 9-runner hunter chase at Gowran Park (3m 1l, heavy). YOUNG MINER beat Invasion ¾l in a 4-runner handicap chase over course an distance (soft). Best effort last season came when beating Gute Nacht 20l in a 13-runner novice chase over course and distance (good). Selection: YOUNG MINER

2.40 ROSELAND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,478: 3m) (11 runners)

501	1-11	LE GINNO 41 (D,S,S) (Irish World Partnership) C Brooks 5-11-4	G Bradley	9	
502	433-062	ARMATEUR 17 (Mr) H Porter) J McConnochie 5-10-12	R Bellamy	9	
503	42BP-P0	GLITE NACHT 14 (Mrs H Gillott) S Campion 10-10-12	S Lyons (5)	-	
504	55	HENRY VILL 30 (Rambo Racing) N Tweston-Davies 5-10-12	D Bridgwater	7	
505	0-02U0	IVY HOUSE 15 (Mrs I. Joughin) J J O'Neill 5-10-12	N Williamson	8	
506	30-320	MAJORITY MAJOR 13 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 4-10-12	C Grant	8	
507	P0-22P5	NORTHERN SQUIRE 17 (Mrs J Davenport) J Jefferson 5-10-12	P Williams	(5)	
508	/43/PP2-	SPARKLING FLAME 344 (D,S) (Chandler Ltd) N Henderson 9-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	(5)	
509	S	SWINGING SONS 13 (Mrs F Gilman) J Wharton 6-10-12	B Dalton	-	
510	064-0	JUST MOLLY 38 (P Norton) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-10-7	M Dwyer	7	
511	PP/000-P	SOPHINI 7 (Mrs A Tomkinson) Mrs A Tomkinson 5-10-7	C Woodall	(7)	

BETTING: 5-4 Le Ginno, 7-2 Sparkling Flame, 4-1 Armateur, 10-1 Majority Major, 12-1 Henry Vill, Just Molly 16-1 others.

1992: BRACKENFIELD 6-11-5 R Hodge (9-2) Mrs M Reveley 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

LE GINNO beat Arctic Course a neck in a 17-runner novice hurdle at Chepstow (3m, good). ARMATEUR 5l 2nd of 6 to Call Home in a novice hurdle at Fonhwell (2m 5f, good). IVY HOUSE's best recent effort came when 21¼l 2nd of 12 to Llangate in a novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). MAJORITY MAJOR 33½l 2nd of 18 to Larapinta in a novice hurdle at Kelso on penultimate start (2m 5f 110yd, good). NORTHERN SQUIRE's best recent effort came when 12l 2nd of 13 to Classic Contact in a novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good). SPARKLING FLAME, a top-class novice closer at his best, 31½l 2nd of 24 to Kloe Velocity in a novice hurdle at Worcester last season (3m, heavy). Selection: LE GINNO

3.10 CONSORT TRAVEL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,427: 2m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

601	6-60P04	CLURICAN 6 (D,S) (P Grundy) N Tinkler 4-11-10	G McCourt	9	
602	0/1-R335	SPACE CAPTAIN 34 (C,D,S) (E Atkinson) G Moore 6-11-1	N Bentley (3)	9	
603	021DF-0	BRAMBLEBERRY 17 (S) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 4-10-12	Gary Lyons	9	
604	61041-6	GYMCRAK SOVEREIGN 16 (D,S,S) (Gymcrak Racing) G Holmes 5-10-12	R Morley	9	
605	4621-F2	RATIFY 24 (S) (J Fretwell) K Morgan 5-10-10	A S Smith	(5)	
606	101P6-3	SEAGULL HOLLOW 85 (CD,BF,S,S) (Mrs J Mountefield) M H Easterby 4-10-9	L Wyer	9	
607	132P/	KEEP HOPE ALIVE 1341 (BF,S,S) (Mrs J Donnelly) B Curley 9-10-5	E Murphy	-	
608	4P/1534-	DORADUS 209F (D,F,S) (Lady Halifax) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-10-5	M Dwyer	8	
609	1314-04	MAGIC BLOOM 39 (BF,F,S) (P Nelson) A Stringer 7-10-0	A Lamach (3)	8	
610	003428/	EMERALD GEM 597 (CD,S) (S Cheney) O Brennan 7-10-0	S Keightley	-	
611	354220	MY LINDIANNE 18 (S) (B Sale) J Dooler 5-10-0	W Worthington	8	
612	0-P4300	ELDER PRINCE 15 (BF,F,S) (Haggswood Partnership) Ronald Thompson 7-10-0	R Supple	7	

Long handicap: Magic Bloom 9-13, Emerald Gem 9-12, My Lindianne 9-7, Elder Prince 8-3.

BETTING: 5-1 Ratify, 4-1 Doradus, 5-1 Seagull Hollow, 7-1 Keep Hope Alive, Magic Bloom, 10-1 Space Captain, 12-1 Brambleberry, Gymcrak Sovereign, 16-1 others.

1992: GRIS ET VIOLET 5-10-13 P Harley (11-4) Jimmy Fitzgerald 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

CLURICAN about 6l 4th of 6 to Strath Royal in a handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). SPACE CAPTAIN 11l 3rd of 10 to Toogood To Be True in a handicap hurdle at Wetherby on penultimate start (2m, good). RATIFY 1l 2nd of 8 to Mananne in a handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). SEAGULL HOLLOW 41¼l 3rd of 6 to Balabanoo in a handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft), wd. CLURICAN (13lb better off) 11l last. MAGIC BLOOM about 2¼l 4th of 8 to Essby Maudrina in a handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good to firm). MY LINDIANNE 16½ 2nd of 6 to Cardinal Bird in a conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). Selection: RATIFY

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Cheesbrough	3	8	37.5	G Upton	4	6	66.7
M H Easterby	22	65	33.8	G McCourt	26	92	28.3
C Thornton	6	20	30.0	L Wyer	18	76	23.7
N Tinkler	24	83	28.9	N Williamson	4	17	23.5
Jimmy Fitzgerald	27	99	27.3	C Grant	14	64	21.9
C Brooks	3	11	27.3	M Dwyer	16	79	20 3

Withdrawal of Zeta's Lad reduces big-race field

THE field for tomorrow's Betterware Cup Handicap Chase at Ascot was reduced further yesterday when trainer John Upson announced Zeta's Lad a non-runner.

With Gambling Royal withdrawn on Wednesday a maximum of eight runners will go to post. Zeta's Lad's defection means that race sponsors, Andrew Cohen and his wife Wendy, will be represented only by the Upson-trained Very Very Ordinary.

Upson said: "Zeta's Lad is perfectly fine. He was always going for the King George and I just decided it would be better going straight for that race."

William Hill now make Young Hustler the 11-8 favourite. They then bet: 3-1 Very Very Ordinary, 9-2 Capability Brown, 10-1 Fighting Words, 11-1 Latent Talent, 14-1 Flashthecash, Mister Ed and 16-1 Windy Ways.

☐ Adrian Maguire reached 90 winners for the season with a 47-1 double at Towcester yesterday.

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UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

12.30 Man To Man. 1.00 The Laughing Lord. 1.30 Band Of Hope. 2.00 MR FLANAGAN (nap). 2.30 Saint Ciel. 3.00 Trimlough. 3.30 Stytus.

HEAVY (SOFT IN MANY PATCHES) SIS

12.30 ST MODWEN NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,463: 2m 4f 110yd) (14 runners)

1	213	MAN TO MAN 16 (S) F Doumen (Fr) 6-11-5	A Kondrat	-	
2	40-5	FUN MONEY 13 (F) A J Wilson 5-10-12	A Maguire	98	
3	00-	GREAT ORME 254 D Barons 6-10-12	Mr G Sheskin (7)	-	
4	0	GRECIAN SAILOR 18 R Frost 6-10-12	J Frost	-	
5		HIT THE FAN 249F N Twiston-Davies 4-10-12	C Llewellyn	-	
6	FP	HYDEONIAN 10 T Kersey 6-10-12	M Hourigan	-	
7	-P00	PHAROAH'S SON 9 Miss C Johnsey 7-10-12	S Earle	-	
8	0S30	PRINCETHORPE 30 B Cambidge 6-10-12	D Meredith (3)	75	
9	4-0P	ROYAL GAIT 41 D Barons 5-10-12	R Dods (3)	-	
10	32/0	SENNA BLUE 615 R Pugh 5-10-12	V Slattery	-	
11	8-00	THE OVERTRUMPER 59 G Roe 6-10-12	R Greene	-	
12	0-U	WARREID 14 P Nicholls 5-10-12	R Dunwoody	(5)	
13	20F-	BOWLAND GIRL 209 R Hollinshead 4-10-7	S Wynne (3)	-	
14	00	FOXY LASS 29 B Cambidge 4-10-7	Mr J Cambidge	-	

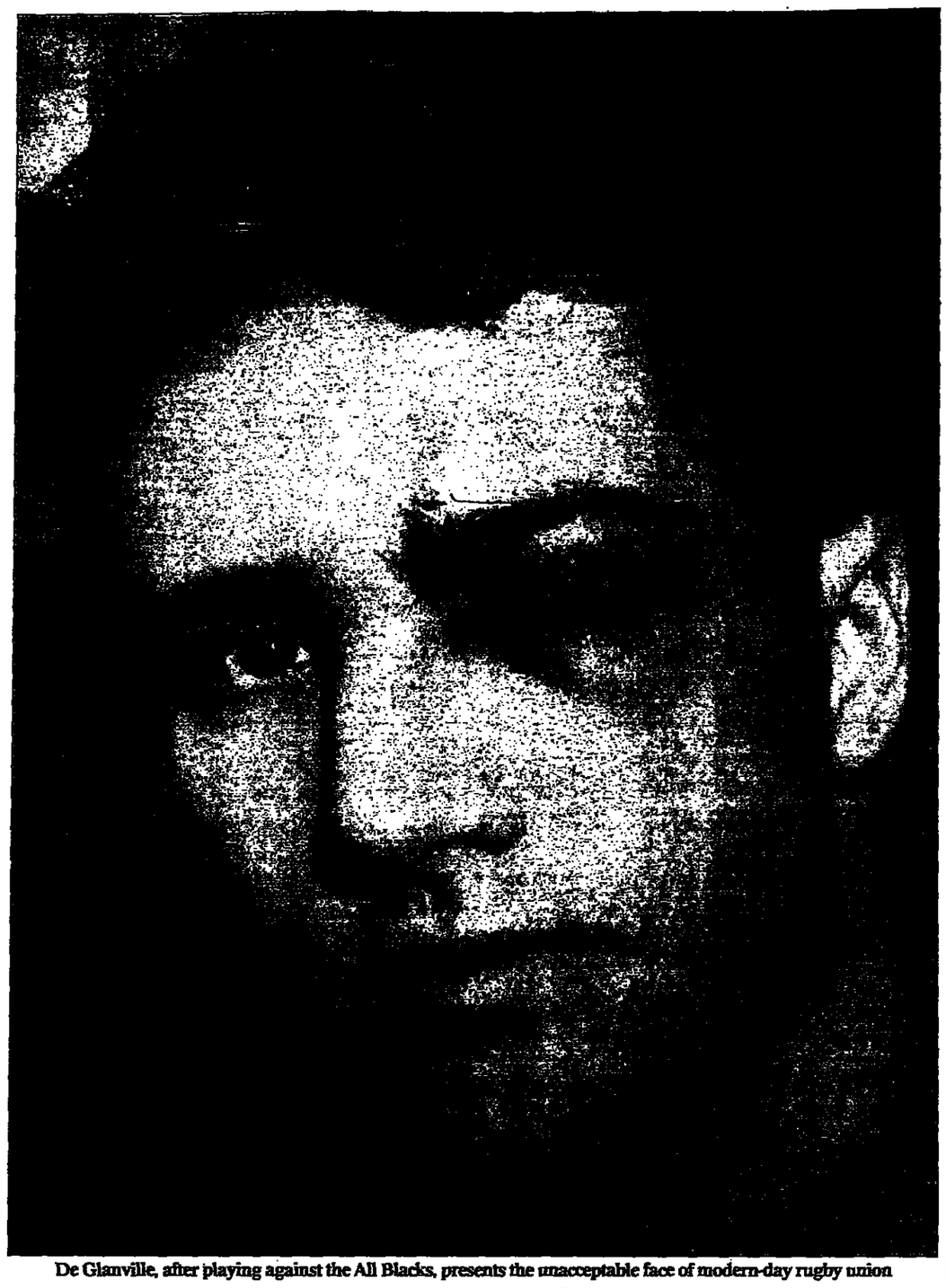
1-2 Man To Man, 6-1 Hit The Fan, 14-1 Fun Money, Princeltope, 16-1 others.

1.00 OCTAGON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,572: 2m 5f) (9)

1	-354	DANDY MINSTREL 24 (F,S,		

Battered image needs quick cure

David Miller, chief sports correspondent, continues his investigation into the future prospects of British sport. Today, rugby union



De Glanville, after playing against the All Blacks, presents the unacceptable face of modern-day rugby union

The best of rugby union is the ultimate paradox of modern sport. Idealistically amateur yet factually professional, ethically sporting yet persistently foul, genuinely character-forming yet slyly expedient, administratively honourable yet wantonly hypocritical.

Unless these four contradictions within a great sport are quickly resolved by an administration that is demonstrably more amateur than the professional players it attempts to denounce, the game might become unplayable for genuine sportsmen, unwatchable for discerning spectators and unacceptable for protective parents. A shame for a sport excitingly led in England by Geoff Cooke and others.

I can do no better than quote Clem Thomas, that notably hard flanker, whose cross-kick led to Wales' defeat of the 1954 All Blacks. A famously evocative rugby name is Steele-Bodger, and no forward steel-bodgered more vigorously than Thomas, but in the present issue of *Rugby World*, the magazine, he states:

"Foul play and cheating are the two factors that can make the game unplayable ... the All Blacks are guilty of both ... international rugby players are among the most physical yet literate and I believe they know exactly what they are doing." As Edmund Burke said, for evil to triumph, all that is needed is for good men to do nothing.

Contradiction is almost endemic to the game. The (English) Rugby Football Union (RFU) has just completed the largest, most modern, stadium for any sport in Britain, operationally dependent on maximum commercialisation and player-commitment, while the Rugby World Cup *Limited* has just signed an £18 million television contract for 1995. Yet the players, according to amiable Canute impersonators such as Dudley Wood, secretary of the RFU, must remain unpaid.

Whether it is the dilemma of professionalism or of violence, Wood's is the voice that enables diehard traditionalists to feel comfortable, the public manifestation of rugby's self-defensive conscience that allows others to get on with the game as it is now. For better or worse.

The recently completed All Blacks tour contained such extremes of cheating that legislation must surely be introduced — as in cricket — for the appointment of independent judges at "test" matches, with the power of arbitrary suspension of guilty players undetected by referee or linesmen.

As with the past examples of Argentina or Germany in football's World Cups of 1966, 1982 or 1990, or West Indies or Pakistan during recent cricket tours, it is unrealistic to expect team management to discipline their teams. Wood has stated that rugby has all the power it needs: the sanction of non-selection. That voluntary action does not happen.

Furthermore, of the 61 countries affiliated to the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), only 12 have any power. An executive council comprises the eight founding members — four British, France, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, with two votes each, and Argentina, Canada, Italy and Japan, with one. This means that nothing much happens that the founding eight do not like; for example, condemnation of each other's sharp practice. New Zealand returned home not apologetic for foul play but complaining about the *accusations* of foul play by Carling, Moore and others.

Yet the relatively innocuous protests by Ian Beer, the RFU president — he viewed the horrific injury to Philip de Glanville as a "careless, overenthusiastic incident" — dismayed many, especially parents of young rugby players. Mere disapproving speeches, by Beer or Sir Peter Yarranton, former president of the RFU and now chairman of the Sports Council, mean little. Beer claims that the nebulous "12-hour limit" for protest prevented more positive action over de Glanville's injury, the evidence only being seen by Beer on BBC television the following evening. An alert official would have been in the BBC scanner room within ten minutes of the end of the game.

LEADERSHIP IN SPORT

Beer's successor will be Denis Easby, a solicitor from Reading and member of the IRFB amateur and laws subcommittees. With Sir Ewart Bell, chairman of the Rugby World Cup, Easby is representative of the more progressive view within rugby, those who, even reluctantly, recognise the need to contradict the conservatism of the likes of Wood.

"I suppose I'm probably left of centre," Easby concedes. "I understand the views of other countries [veering to professionalism]." The amateur battle, Easby admits, is probably lost. "Within ten years, those at the top will probably carry on much as they like," he said.

"What we'd like to stop is players being "bought" by one club from another, but it's impossible. I believe in Ewart Bell's principle — if you can't control, accept. And then control. We're an amateur organisation, we can't run a professional police force."

Rugby union cannot have it both ways: vast crowds, important televised competitions and amateur performers. "Rugby is facing its biggest dilemma ever," Gavin Hastings, the British Isles captain, said. "The expansion of the World Cup between 1987 and 1991, in sponsorship and spectator and television interest, has led to increased demands by administrators, the game and players. The administrators *are* moving towards compensating players, but the compensation is not sufficient."

Hastings has just returned from a visit to South Africa where, self-evidently, the senior players are full-time. What is the point, he asks rhetorically, of an IRFB that does not set clear regulations, where the home unions are not moving at the same (professional) pace as the southern hemisphere, even allowing for the fact that the game is so much more important in South Africa and New Zealand. "There is no doubt in my mind that, within five to seven years, rugby union will be a professional game," Hastings said. "Whether it could sustain itself, at club level, is another matter. Almost certainly not in Scotland."

He thinks there will be an Anglo-Scottish-Welsh league, with promotion and relegation, because the concentration of English players at a few clubs cannot continue. Of the 46 players shortlisted for the All Blacks match, 42 came from five clubs.

Given the contradiction that the amateur-orientated governing bodies want more competition, Hastings advocates a five nations' tournament with home and away matches between every country each season, staged in either two phases or as an eight-week end-of-season finale. He believes rugby will go the way of football and cricket 25 years ago: open, with lower grade competitors remaining amateur, professionals freely accepted. "We have to learn from other sports," Hastings said. He believes that, as in golf, coaches and players should be included in the administration. "I'll be gone in a couple of years but players' views are necessary."

Easby, acknowledging that the commercial operation of Murrayfield and Twickenham needs the collaboration of "amateur" players, and that there are grey areas of financial reward for players that can never be properly controlled, stresses that what rugby wants to avoid is the creation of a Tottenham Hotspur-Gascoigne-Lazio inflation that could bankrupt sections of the game the way it has in football.

He points out that legitimate refund, under IRFB regulations, of lost income allows recompense of £40 per day and £22 personal and communication allowance: £62, or equivalent to £21,000 per annum. He sees nothing wrong with a sponsor agreeing to pay a player's salary, though the difference between that and professionalism seems academic. Easby senses that many members of the IRFB are "less and less willing" to go along with the foundation members. He agrees that the board is undemocratic and that the four "outsiders" on the council should have the equality of two votes each, though he is against the ultimate United Nations-style one country, one vote among all 61.

"We'd never achieve management," he said. "But if someone wants to litigate against unacceptable board regulations, let them litigate. We, the RFU, put £1 million a year into development. The problem with payments [to players] is that, as in athletics, the top handful take most of it." An insoluble problem.

"The IRFB is a body in transition," Sir Ewart said, "and will have to adjust further. It's probable that regional groups will obtain a place on the executive council, though I'm no longer a member. It's a matter of balance between democracy and efficiency, with the present situation deriving from a difference in playing strengths."

Sir Ewart considers reasonable the players' compensation claim for potentially damaged career prospects. "There is no alternative," he admits. The RFU, he said, is obliged to drive the players to finance the new Twickenham, even while some officials continue to pontificate on player status. "The commercial input is growing all the time and it's difficult to draw the line [on compensation]," he said.

He thinks the development of the Rugby World Cup over the next decade will play a significant part in what happens to the game as a whole. "In a few years, there will be a levelling," he said. "With the small able to compete with the best." As in cricket, as in soccer. The RFU, not to say the IRFB, need to recognise that running rugby is no longer a long service reward for part-time officials, former players who built a separate career and personal financial stability elsewhere. The senior game must not be full-time just for players.



Wood: conservatism



Yarranton: weak speech



The exciting future for golf

SPORT IN BRIEF

Prost hints at return to try for fifth title

RON Dennis, the managing director of the McLaren Formula One team, admitted last night that he had not given up hope of persuading Alain Prost, the four times world champion, to renounce his retirement from the sport and return to grand prix racing next year (Oliver Holt writes). Prost retired at the end of last season, having won a record 51 grands prix and insisted that he would not return as a driver.

But ambiguous comments he made when he collected his world championship trophy at a prize-giving ceremony in Paris last week fuelled speculation that he might be on the verge of announcing a decision to try to equal Juan-Manuel Fangio's record of five world titles. Dennis, speaking from his team's headquarters in Woking, said: "How many French people do you know? They change their minds without the least concern. I am constantly in touch with all the drivers that could contribute to the future of McLaren. You have just got to put two and two together."

Test blow to Australia

CRICKET: Steve Waugh could miss the first two Test matches of the series against South Africa after tearing a hamstring in his left leg in Australia's three-run win over New Zealand in the World Series Cup in Melbourne yesterday. Waugh pulled up in obvious pain after completing a quick single and immediately left the field for treatment.

New Zealand were restricted to 199 for nine in reply to Australia's 202 for five in their 50 overs, with Shane Warne ripping through the middle order in a spell of four for 19. They could have won, however, had Danny Morrison managed to hit a six off the last ball from Craig McDermott. However, he was restricted to two to deep cover.

☐ Ranatunga, the Sri Lankan captain, scored an unbeaten 66 to help his side beat West Indies by three wickets with 11 balls to spare in the international in Colombo yesterday.

Arnold top coach

AWARDS: Malcolm Arnold, who helped Colin Jackson win the world 110 metres hurdles title this year, was named male coach of the year in the annual awards of the National Coaching Foundation yesterday. The equivalent female award went to Christine Still, who has aided many gymnasts to reach national and international level. Ruth Prideaux, coach to the England women's cricket team, won the female team coach award and Jefferson Williamson, the volleyball coach, won the male team coach award.

McClennan leaves

RUGBY LEAGUE: Mike McClennan is resigning as coach of St Helens after tonight's championship home match against Hull Kingston Rovers. McClennan, who has been coach since February 1990, will fly home to New Zealand next week, five months earlier than expected. Shane Cooper, the St Helens captain, and Frank Barrow, the reserve team coach, will take charge until a successor is appointed. A club statement stressed the decision had nothing to do with a beer-throwing incident involving McClennan last Saturday.

Twin target for Clark

BADMINTON: Gill Clark yesterday improved her chances of reaching the finals of both the women's and mixed doubles events in the world grand prix finals in Kuala Lumpur. Clark and Joanne Wright beat Cheng Yin Sat and Chung Hoi Yuk, of Hong Kong, 15-13, 15-1 to ensure that their meeting with the top Indonesians, Finarsih and Lili Tampih, will decide who reaches the final from their group. Clark and Nick Ponting must beat Gillian Gowers and Michael Sogaard to reach the mixed doubles final.

England pick Hawes

BOWLS: Catherine Hawes, of Cherwell Indoor Bowls Club in Oxford, will become the youngest woman to play for England on carpet when she takes part in the home international series at Blackpool Borough from March 22 to 24. Hawes, 22, reached the English under-25 indoor singles final in 1991 and helped Oxford to win the national outdoor triples title in 1992. She is one of five newcomers named by the England selectors, who hope to exploit their home advantage and regain the British title from Scotland.

Queen's Club survive

REAL TENNIS: Queen's Club gained revenge for their defeat by Petworth House last year in the Fields Trophy, the national inter-club championship, when they scraped home 3-2 to reach the semi-finals of the tournament yesterday. Although Petworth won both doubles matches, Queen's won all three singles and William Maltby, their No 3, clinched the match when he defeated Charles Fuente in straight sets. Queen's now meet a strong MCC side for a place in the final while Seacourt play Hatfield in the other half of the draw.

Centre awarded £1.5m

SPORTS GRANTS: The Foundation for Sport and the Arts yesterday handed out 813 awards totalling more than £16 million, bringing its total grants to about £170 million since it began funding operations 30 months ago. The biggest amount, £1.5 million, went towards the development of the sports centre at University College, London. The Central Council of Physical Recreation received £300,000, Ilkeston School, Derbyshire, £250,000 and the English Table Tennis Association £305,000.

Croft hoping to shine despite black eye

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PORT ELIZABETH

FIVE wins from five matches is good going, whatever the opposition. Today a happy and united England A side enter the second four-day game of this tour expecting Eastern Province to present different problems to those encountered in the nine-wicket victory over Transvaal.

The pitch at St George's Park is bare at both ends and likely to favour spin, which should ensure Robert Croft, Glamorgan's 23-year-old off spinner, of a game as Peter Such's partner. Martin McCague, who played at Zwide on Wednesday, came through an extended practice session yesterday and ought to share the new ball with Mark Ilott.

Martin Bicknell, who damaged his ribs in the nets at Zwide, and saw an orthopaedic specialist on Wednesday night, must undergo an isotope bone scan today to determine whether the injury affects bone or soft tissue. Bob Bennett and Phil Neale, the tour and team managers, are prepared to give him the best possible chance to recover.

"If he was going to be out of action for a week or ten days, it would be worth waiting because there is still a lot of cricket left on the tour," Neale said. Bicknell did not bowl yesterday, though he had a bat.

A significant part of the A team strategy, to prepare players for the senior tour to West Indies in case they are required there, accounts for this show of patience, and it makes sense. This party was selected with an eye on the future; if a replacement is needed it will not be Andy Babington.

There was a minor injury worry when Croft was struck under the right eye by a ball from Dominic Cork. He is sporting a shiner, but he is fit.

Setback for luckless Igglesden

ALAN Igglesden, the Kent fast bowler who pulled out of two of England's Test matches against Australia last summer, is injured again.

Igglesden, a member of the party to tour West Indies, has strained a side muscle during the team's week of practice in Portugal and is unlikely to bowl seriously until the party arrives in Antigua on January 15.

He tried a few gentle deliveries yesterday but was clearly in discomfort and went for treatment by Dave Roberts, the physiotherapist. "It's not serious now, although it would be if we were starting a Test match tomorrow," Roberts said. "I'm quite sure he will be all right by the time we leave for the Caribbean."

Pakistan under Brain's spell

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ZIMBABWE, who have given a surprisingly good account of themselves on their tour of Pakistan, must have exceeded their wildest dreams by dismissing their hosts for 147 on the opening day of the third Test in Lahore.

Left-armer David Brain, playing in only his third Test, led the way as the Zimbabwe seam bowlers made short work of a powerful batting line-up.

Brain, who finished with five for 42, was given fine support by Eddo Brandes and John Rennie, who claimed three for 45 and two for 22 respectively.

Andy Flower's decision to bowl first after winning the toss paid handsome dividends for Pakistan were dismissed in 51.4 overs soon after the second interval.

Inzamam-ul-Haq was top scorer with 33 while veteran Javed Miandad, playing his 124th test, contributed 31 and Basit Ali 29. Javed and Basit kept Zimbabwe at bay for just over an hour, sharing a fourth-wicket partnership of 53, but this was the only stand of consequence.

Brain made the breakthrough by removing Aamir Sohail with the fourth ball of his first over, Alistair Campbell taking a brilliant catch in the gully with only three runs on the board.

Shoaib Mohammad and Inzamam clung on as the ball swung and seamed freely but just as the worst seemed to be over were dismissed in the space of four balls, leaving Pakistan reeling at 60 for three at lunch.

Zimbabwe, who went into the game 2-0 down in the three-match series, claimed five wickets in the afternoon session as Pakistan slipped to 140 for eight by tea, the end coming soon afterwards.

By the close, Zimbabwe had scored 15 without loss in eight overs and were well placed to record their first Test-match victory.

PAKISTAN: First innings

Aamir Sohail c Campbell b Brain	2
Shoaib Mohammad c Brandes b Rennie	14
Inzamam-ul-Haq b Brandes	33
Javed Miandad low b Brain	31
Basit Ali b Brain	29
Asif Mujtaba c James b Brain	0
†Rashid Latif c Houghton b Brandes	7
*Wasim Akram not out	16
Waqar Younis b Brain	0
Mushtaq Ahmed b Brandes	1
Ata-ur-Rehman c James b Rennie	0
Extras (b 4, lb 6, nb 4)	14
Total	147

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-50, 3-54, 4-107, 5-111, 6-130, 7-130, 8-135, 9-140.

BOWLING: Brandes 14-3-45-3; Brain 15-3-42-5; Streak 12-3-28-0; Rennie 10.4-3-22-2.

ZIMBABWE: First innings

G W Flower not out	10
M W Dekker not out	2
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (for 0 wkt)	15

A D R Campbell, D L Houghton, *†A Flower, D H Strook, G J Whittall, W James, D Brain, E A Brandes and J A Rennie to bat.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 4-0-6-0; Waqar Younis 4-2-5-0.

SKI REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	45	100	good powder	good	snow		-4	16/12
(Snowfalls and high winds causing problems)								
St Anton	35	135	good powder	good	snow		0	16/12
(Piste machines struggling to keep up with heavy snow)								
FRANCE								
Chamonix	60	240	n/a	n/a	n/a	cloud	2	16/12
(Lifts opening today; fresh snow)								
S Chevalier	40	100	good powder	good	snow		0	16/12
(Fresh snow has transformed conditions)								
Tignes	95	260	powder powder	powder	snow		9	16/12
(Pistes difficult to find as all buried under deep snow)								
Val d'Isère	80	160	powder powder	powder	snow		-4	16/12
(No skiing yesterday because of blizzard)								
Val Thorens	150	300	powder powder	powder	snow		7	16/12
(Heavy snowfalls; 50 to 100cm of new snow so far)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	50	300	good powder	good	snow		-3	16/12
(Heavy snowfalls and high winds all day)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	90	200	good powder	good	snow		2	16/12
(Very heavy snowfalls all day)								
Verbier	40	150	good powder	good	snow		-3	16/12
(Only three lifts working but plenty of powder to ski)								
Zermatt	25	160	good powder	good	snow		5	16/12
(Many pistes closed by heavy snow and high winds)								
UNITED STATES								
Killington	40	100	fair	varied	fair	cloud	2	11/12
(Around the clock snow)								
Steamboat	90	140	good powder	good	snow		3	16/12
(Up to 50cm of fresh powder on a good base)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

هكذا من الأصل

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (59307)
7.00 Breakfast News (97992543)
9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk presents a topical discussion (s) (4457630)
9.45 Newshound Current Affairs quiz (s) (4015746)
10.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (1118678)
10.05 Playdays. For infants (r) (s) (3780123)
10.30 Good Morning . . . with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (15912123)
12.15 Pebble Mill with Judi Spiers (s) (9222949) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (66183956)
1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (60340)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (74213479) **1.50 The Travel Quiz** introduced by Andi Peters (s) (20960017)
2.20 Holiday. A repeat of Tuesday's programme. (Ceefax) (s) (17787746)
2.50 The Flying Doctors. High-flying medical drama set in the Australian outback. (Ceefax) (s) (8271307)
3.35 Popeye (3452727) **3.45 Dooby Duck's Euro Tour** (r) (s) (1091833)
3.50 Philbert the Frog. Last in the cartoon series (s) (7359746) **3.55 Superbods** with Nicola Davies and Philip Hawthorn. (Ceefax) (s) (3456543) **4.10 The Animals of Farthing Wood**. Gentle animation (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8546017) **4.35 Take Two** (s) (8284630)
5.00 Newsround (8528253) **5.10 Byker Grove**. Children's drama. (Ceefax) (4764369)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (930456) **Northern Ireland:** Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with John Humphrys and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (456)
6.30 Regional news magazines (956)



Howard Stableford and talking teddy (7.00pm)

7.00 Tomorrow's World. Carmen Pryce, Judith Hann, Howard Stableford and Kate Bellingham present a Christmas special in which celebrity guests reveal what would be their ideal Christmas present of the future (Ceefax) (s) (4920)
7.30 Dr Who and the Daleks. The last episode in this classic serial celebrating the 30th anniversary of the good Doctor. Starring Jon Pertwee (r). (Ceefax) (920)
8.00 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game. Family game show. (Ceefax) (s) (2678)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (4901)
9.30 FILM: Psycho II (1983) starring Anthony Perkins. After 22 years, Norman is declared sane and checks out of the asylum and back into Bates Motel, where he tries to put the past behind him. But hark, is that mother calling? Directed by Richard Franklin. (Ceefax) (797388). **Northern Ireland:** Anderson on the Box 10.25 Film: Psycho II 12.15-1.05am International Showjumping. **Wales:** Between Ourselves 10.00 Film: Psycho II 11.50 International Showjumping 12.40-2.05am Film: Hands of the Ripper
11.20 International Showjumping from the Grand Hall, Olympia. Introduced by David Vine (s) (447036)
12.10am FILM: Carry on England (1976). A late night tribute to Kenneth Connor, one of the last *Carry Ons* to be made (8056765)
1.35 Weather (2968384)

BBC2

6.55 FILM: The Falcon in San Francisco (1945, b/w). Thriller starring Tom Conway, directed by Joseph H. Lewis (6555456) **8.00 Breakfast News**. (Ceefax) (2245611) **8.15 Westminster Daily** (9037833)
9.00 FILM: Crack-Up (1946, b/w). Psychological thriller starring Pat O'Brien. Directed by Irving Reis (18253)
10.30 FILM: Step Lively (1944, b/w). Musical comedy starring Frank Sinatra, directed by Tim Whelan (99833)
12.00 Play Chess! (r) (3781982) **12.10 A Fisherman's Diary**. Autumn (r) (8972562) **12.40 Glynn Christian's Serendipity** (r) (61878562) **12.50 The Allotment Show** (r) (2995253) **1.20 Charlie Chalk** (r) (63067123) **1.35 The Story of English Furniture** (r) (20941982)
2.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (68841123)
2.05 Sport on Friday. Golf: the Johnnie Walker world championship from Jamaica; and Showjumping from Olympia (198017)
3.50 News (Ceefax) and weather (1070340)
4.00 Catchword with Paul Coia (s) (949)
4.30 A Cook's Tour of France II (r). (Ceefax) (s) (833) **5.00 Today's the Day**. Martyn Lewis presents the final of the news quiz (s) (9098)
5.30 Top Gear (r). (Ceefax) (s) (185)
6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons. Gerry Anderson's puppet series. (Ceefax) (393302)
6.25 The Man From UNCLE (Ceefax) (303630)
7.15 The Living Soap. A look at the lives of six students sharing a house in Manchester (s) (951678)
7.45 What the Papers Say with Carol Sarler of *The People* (751524)
8.00 Wildlife on Two: Kalahari Big Foot. A film about a baby springhare (r). (Ceefax) (6982)
8.30 CHOICE The Wartime Kitchen and Garden. (Ceefax) (s) (7017)
9.00 Bottom. Comedy with Rik Mayall and Adrian Edmondson (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2543)
9.30 CHOICE The Team: A Season with McLaren. (Ceefax) (s) (95475)
10.00 Have I Got News for You with guests Lesley Abdela and Maureen Lipman (67104)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (649272)
11.15 The Larry Sanders Show. American satirical comedy series (s) (132562) **Wales:** Welsh Lobby 11.45 The Larry Sanders Show 12.10 Weather 12.15 Frank Zappa 12.25-2.35Film: Hell in the Pacific
11.40 Weather (432494)
11.45 Frank Zappa: 1940-1993. A tribute to the musician who died last week (936104)



Marvin and Mifune fight to survive (12.25am)

12.25am FILM: Hell in the Pacific (1968). Lee Marvin and Toshiro Mifune star in this offbeat war film following the struggle for survival of an American pilot and Japanese naval officer who are stranded on an uninhabited island. Directed by John Boorman (838031). Ends at **2.10**

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CHOICE



Loftus and Thompson on a photo shoot (C4, 8.00pm)

Short Stories: Snappers
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Hugh Thompson and Phil Loftus are paparazzi, photographers who prowl the West End of London in the hope of snatching pictures of celebrities. Their most famous image was of Joan Collins, looking less than glamorous as she went shopping in a headscarf. They sold the picture around the world and it earned them more than £8,000. Other assignments, as this engaging film demonstrates, are less fruitful. Clint Eastwood attends a film premiere but refuses to pose. Jason Donovan gets wise to the pair as they follow his car and manages to give them the slip. Thompson and Loftus say they know they are hated by their subjects. But one exclusive shot can make it all worthwhile, even the long hours spent standing in the rain.

All Or Nothing At All
ITV, 9.00pm

His disgraceful past finally catches up with Hugh Laurie's conman in the final instalment of a watchable drama that has changed track more than once but usually managed to get away with it. At first it seemed a simple case of how long the deviously charming Leo, fleecing friends and relatives of their wealth to indulge his passion for gambling, would survive. But the writer, Guy Andrews, decided to keep us waiting. He took us off into variously relevant sub-plots. In particular he teased us with childhood flashbacks designed to elucidate Leo's behaviour. These psychological explanations have weighed heavily on what is essentially a comic piece, though it has to be said that the humour has often been decidedly dark.

The Team — A Season With McLaren
BBC2, 9.30pm

Active suspension is Topic A in the continuing story of life in Formula One. Thankfully there is no need to know how it works, only that it is a piece of advanced technology pioneered by McLaren and its rival, Williams. The point is that, half way through the season, Formula One's governing body decides to ban it. The McLaren factory at Woking is furious. Appalling, says team manager Dave Ryan. McLaren's star driver, Ayrton Senna, is more diplomatic but no less annoyed. But the next Grand Prix looms and McLaren must either junk active suspension or pull out. Another tense episode in motor racing technology finds McLaren's test driver and engineer at odds over the revamped Ford Cosworth engine.

The Wartime Kitchen and Garden
BBC2, 8.30pm

"Washing's like spinach", says the homely Ruth Mott, "it's never finished". Folk in 1944 might have felt the same about the Second World War, despite the hopes raised by the D-Day landings. The sixth wartime Christmas is marked by the King's message on the wireless and an eggless cake. There is one jarring note in an otherwise immaculate period reconstruction. Doodlebugs fly overhead in black and white, causing the glass in Harry Dodson's greenhouse to shatter in colour. The thought occurs that it might have been appropriate to shoot the whole series in monochrome. On reflection there was no need. Mott and Dodson travel so effortlessly back to the 1940s that you can scarcely see the join. **Peter Waymark**

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV (4585494)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep A Christmas edition of the trolley-dash game show with Dale Winton (9918658)



Shop until you drop with Dale Winton (9.25am)

9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (3766543)
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . Topical studio discussion chaired by John Stapleton (7270562)
10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley (15906562)
12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (9013814)
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (2913659)
12.55 Coronation Street. A repeat of Wednesday's episode (Teletext) (2821678) **1.25 Home And Away**. Fin defies Luke by inviting his brother, Bill, to the cinema (Teletext) (26440727) **1.55 A Country Practice**. Medical drama serial set in an Australian outback town (83768384)
2.20 Capital Woman. Highlights from the series about living in London (s) (17772814)
2.50 Take the High Road Highland drama serial (5787678)
3.20 ITN News headlines (9794104) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (9793475)
3.30 Alphabet Castle (s) (3448524) **3.40 Tots TV** (s) (1078982) **3.50 Scooby Doo** (r) (1007494) **4.00 Astro Farm** (4309611) **4.15 Cartoon** featuring Bugs Bunny (8530456) **4.40 Knightmare**. Dungeons and Dragons-type adventure game (s) (2585746)
5.10 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (4336366)
5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (540982)
6.00 London Tonight with Alastair Stewart and Anne Maria Ashe. The guests include Cary Elwes, star of the Mel Brooks comedy *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*. (Teletext) (87456)
7.00 Family Fortunes. Quiz with Les Dennis (s) (6388)
7.30 Coronation Street. Denise meets her tormentor and Percy goes into battle against the Scrooge of the Street. (Teletext) (388)
8.00 Beadle's About. More juvenile practical jokes (5036)
8.30 Second Thoughts. Comedy series with James Bolam and Lynda Bellingham as a divorced couple thinking of taking the plunge again. Faith's daughter is in love with the new pianist in the hotel bar, but he's a married man. (Teletext) (s) (4543)
9.00 CHOICE All or Nothing at All (Teletext) (s) (7982)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (54630) **10.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (414678)
10.40 Crime Monthly. Fiona Foster appeals for help with current investigations including an armed pub raid in Bromley, a Holloway stabbing and a £5,000 theft at Edmonton bus garage (1026217)
11.45 Tour of Duty. American Vietnam War drama series (761253)
12.35am Dial Midnight. Among those joining Bob Mills and Wendy Lloyd are comedian John Hegley and the band Little Angels (s) (2370253)
1.35 The ITV Chart Show (s) (5943389)
2.45 Whistle On. Music and discussion dominated by James Whale (911296)
3.45 Knebworth — The Greatest Hits. Highlights of last June's concert featuring some of the biggest names in rock music, including Eric Clapton, Elton John and Pink Floyd (393166)
5.30 ITN Morning News Ends at **6.00** (71147)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Ulysses 31 Futuristic cartoon (r) (58017)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (83291)
9.00 You Bet Your Life (71307)
9.30 FILM: Jumbo (1962), starring Doris Day and Jimmy Durante. Busby Berkeley worked on this superior musical comedy and it shows. The songs are staged with his usual flair. Day plays Kitty Wonder who struggles with her gambler father, Durante, to save their small, family circus from a ruthless rival. Directed by Charles Walters (15434104)
11.45 The Most Expensive Breakfast On Earth Short silent film about the true story of a Cuban train driver and his disastrous and costly search for breakfast (r) (8542746)
12.00 House to House. With Maya Even (51543)
12.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series (20562)
1.30 Kaboodle (44938)
2.00 FILM: Margie (1946). Musical comedy set in the Twenties. Jeanne Crain gives a charming performance as a woman who looks back on her college days. Directed by Henry King (461475)
3.40 Air Post (b/w). Short film about the airmail service (3459630) **3.55 Travelog**. Reports from Los Angeles and Greece (r) (Teletext) (s) (5861017)
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. (Teletext) (s) (901)
5.00 Cutting Edge. Monday's programme about the treatment of mental patients (r) (Teletext) (s) (6901)
6.00 Saved By the Bell. Comedy series set in a high school (494)
6.30 Happy Days. American comedy series set in the Fifties. (Teletext) (746)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow (Teletext) and weather (975291) **7.50 First Reaction**. A personal view (294712)
8.00 CHOICE Short Stories: Snappers. (Teletext) (3678)
8.30 Brookside (Teletext) (s) (2185)
9.00 Garden Club Christmas Special Roy Lancaster comes up with interesting facts about holly, ivy and mistletoe as well as ideas for gifts of plants and trees. (Teletext) (7611)
9.30 Cheers. New barman Woody is missing his girlfriend so Sam and Diane arrange a surprise from Indiana for him (80543)
10.00 Nurses American black comedy (Teletext) (s) (52272)
10.30 Clive Anderson Talks Back to Peter Cook who is in four different guises a judge, a rock star, a football manager and a man who claims he has been visited by aliens (s) (650388)
11.10 The Word. The guests include American magicians Penn and Teller (s) (536369)
12.10am Late Licence. Jools Holland teams up with Paula Yates, his co-presenter from *The Tube*, to introduce tonight's late viewing (8424857)



Self-portrait of Prince in concert (12.20am)

12.20 FILM: Sign o' the Times (1987). Prince directed this account of one of the concerts of his European tour (s) (468321)
1.50 Late Licence (5918609)
1.55 Ready, Steady Go! (b/w). Vintage pop music show with the Beatles, Freddie and the Dreamers and Gerry and the Pacemakers (r) (2219128)
2.25 Naked City featuring Iggy Pop and Eddie Izzard (r) (3962499)
3.30 The Clangers. Animation (r) (70940925)
3.40 Zoo TV. With U2 (s) (646760) Ends **5.20**

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes (FM only) **7.00** Mark Goodier **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.45** Jakki Brambles **3.00** Steve Wright in the Afternoon **6.00** News '93 **6.30** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **10.00** John Peel (FM only from **12.00**) **1.00-4.00am** Mark Tonderai (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **5.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** *Pause for Thought* **7.05** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** *Pause for Thought* **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Jameson at the Opera **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **8.45** Tony Lee at the piano **9.00** Listen to the Band: Highlights from the recent *Brass Explosion* festival **10.00** Radio 2 Arts Programme **12.05am** Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes **1.00-4.00** Alan Dedicoat with Night Ride

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service **6.30** Morning Edition **9.00** Dilemmas **10.25** Johnnie Walker with the AM Alternative **12.30pm** Stranger in My Mirror, by Pete Johnson (r) **1.00** News and Sport **1.10** The Crunch **2.30** BFBS Worldwide **4.05** John Inverdale's Drive-In **6.30** WICR. A drama series by Allan Sutherland and Stuart Morris **7.15** *101 Dalmations*: Read by Juliet Stevenson (2/7) **7.30** Popsalt with Tim Smith **8.30** Euromix **9.30** Teen Lurve. She Once, Twice, Two Times Her Boytrends. Teenage love stories by Gareth Williams **10.10** Rave **12.00-12.10am** News, Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in *GMT* **4.30am** BBC English **4.45** News and Press Review in German **5.00** Morgenmagazin: Tips für Touristen **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** News **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Free at Last **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Global Concerns **9.30** On the Move **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** News **10.01** Focus on Faith **10.30** Broadway Lights **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **Noon** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Free at Last **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Off the Shelf: Vintage Thurber **2.45** Global Concerns **3.00** World News **3.15** Music Review **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** News **5.05** World Business Report **5.15** BBC English **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** Nachrichten **7.05** Kaleidoskop **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The World Today **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.15** People and Politics **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** World News **11.05** World Business Report **11.15** Worldbrief **11.30** Multitrack 3 **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** From the Weeklies **12.45** The Learning World **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Short Story: Face the Fiddler **1.45** Jazz Now and Then **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** World News **4.15** Good Books

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto: Mossi (Concerto in G minor, Op 4 No 12: Musica Antiqua Cologne under Reinhard Goebel) **3.00** Petroc Trelawny **6.00** Margaret Howard **7.00** Classic Verdict CD releases **8.00** Evening Concert. French music, including Debussy (Nocturnes. Montreal Symphony Orchestra under Charles Dutoit); Fauré (Piano Trio in D minor, Op 120. Beaux Arts Trio) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00-6.00am** Robert Booth

VIRGIN 1215

6.00am Russ and Jono **10.00** Richard Skinner **1.00pm** Kevin Greening **4.00** Tommy Vance **7.00** Emperor Rosko **10.00** Nick Abbot **2.00am** Paul Coyle

VARIATIONS

Granada Tonight (122543) **5.55-7.00** Kick Off (558104) **10.30** Granada News (414678) **10.40** Up Front! (761833) **11.40** The Full Monty (848833) **12.10am** The Equalizer (3108975) **1.05** Whale On (7364760) **2.05** Raw Power (1823302) **3.05** Entertainment U.K. (5097741) **4.00** Get Wet (19505) **4.30** Riviera (16117449) **4.55-5.30** Jobfinder (7463857)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55 Shortland Street (83788384) **2.20-2.50** Material World (17772814) **5.10-5.40** Movies, Games And Videos (4336366) **6.00** Home And Away (793348) **6.25-7.00** Central News (295272) **10.40** Central Weekend (3243765) **12.10am** Tropical Heat (3196498) **1.10** Whale On (7363031) **2.10** The Beat (1822673) **3.10** Entertainment U.K. (5094654) **4.05-5.20** Jobfinder (4242654)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55 Home And Away (2821678) **1.25** A Country Practice (82746678) **1.50** Take The High Road (20955185) **2.20** Granada Action (17772814) **2.50-3.20** Sons And Daughters (5787678) **3.25-3.30** Granada News (9793475) **5.10-5.40** Blockbusters (4336366) **6.00** Home And Away (524) **6.30** Granada Tonight (122543) **6.55-7.00** Kick Off (558104) **10.30** Granada News (414678) **10.40** Up Front! (761833) **11.40** The Full Monty (848833) **12.10am** The Equalizer (3108975) **1.05** Whale On (7364760) **2.05** Raw Power (1823302) **3.05** Entertainment U.K. (5097741) **4.00** Get Wet (19505) **4.30** Riviera (16117449) **4.55-5.30** Jobfinder

HTV WEST

As London except: 2.20-3.20 Highway To Heaven (3455058) **3.25-3.30** HTV News (9793475) **5.00** HTV News & Weather (524) **6.30-7.00** HTV Sportsweek (104) **10.30** HTV News & Weather (414678) **10.40** Late And Live (3243765) **12.10am** Beverly Hills 90210 (3108975) **1.05** Whale On (7364760) **2.05** Raw Power (1823302) **3.05** Entertainment U.K. (5097741) **4.00** Get Wet (19505) **4.30** Riviera (16117449) **4.55-5.30** Jobfinder

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 6.00 Wales At Six (524) **6.30-7.00** Wish You Were Here..? (104) **10.30** HTV Wales Headlines (414678) **10.40-10.40** The Mal Pope Show (999949) **11.40-12.10pm** Married...With Children (548833) **5.00am-5.30** Jobfinder (51944)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 2.20 Take The High Road (17772814) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (7364760) **2.05** Raw Power (1823302) **3.05** Entertainment U.K. (5097741) **4.00** Get Wet (19505) **4.30** Riviera (16117449) **4.55-5.30** Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 2.20-3.10 Murder She Wrote (2845017) **5.55** Calendar (941814) **5.30-7.00** The Calendar Fashion Show (104) **10.40** Married With Children (999949) **11.10** Film: Beach Red (443456) **1.05am** Whale On (7364760) **2.05** The Big E (1842437) **3.00** Film: The Thrill Of A Romance (525437) **4.55-5.30** The Twilight Zone (7463857)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (83291) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (71307) **9.20** Film: Billy Rose's Jumbo (15434104) **11.45** The Most Expensive Breakfast On Earth (8542746) **12.00pm** House To House (51543) **12.30** Sid Waddrum (94497) **1.00** The Magic Roundabout (93578) **1.30** Film: You'll Never Get Rich (72880949) **3.10** The Three Stooges (57924456) **3.30** The Talking Show (982) **4.00** Star 23 (8727) **5.00** Trash Talk (7494) **5.30** Fifteen To One (253) **6.00** News (152659) **6.20** Cwlwm Serch (144765) **6.25** Heno (293814) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (7630) **7.30** Pelydr X (630) **8.00** Cefn Gwlad (3678) **8.30** Newyddion (2185) **9.00** Aria (5524) **10.00** Brookside (52272) **10.30** Clive Anderson Talks Back (650388) **11.10** The Word (535340) **12.00am** Film: Sign O' The Times (8098383) **1.50** Late Licence

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 1.55 The Sullivans (20954456) **2.25** Gardener's Diary (17771185) **2.55-3.20** A Country Practice (1388765) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (87456) **10.40** Film: The Naked Face (88725098) **12.30am** Love And War (42147) **1.00** My Story (6875741) **1.05** Whale On (7364760) **2.05** Raw Power (1823302) **3.05** Entertainment U.K. (5097741) **4.00** Get Wet (19505) **4.30** Riviera (16117449) **4.55-5.30** Jobfinder

TYNE TEES

As London except: 2.20-3.10 Murder She Wrote (2845017) **5.55** Tyne Tees Today (941814) **6.30-7.00** Wardlaw's World (104) **10.30** Tyne Tees News (414678) **10.40** Woodbine Places (999949) **11.10** Film: Beach Red (443456) **1.05am** Whale On (7364760) **2.05** The Big E (1842437) **3.00** Film: The Thrill Of A Romance (525437) **4.55-5.30** The Twilight Zone (7463857)

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air, including Manfredini (Concerto Grosso, Op 3 No 12); Saint-Saëns (Havanaise, Op 83); Warlock (Capriol Suite); Purcell (Sonata No 10 in D); Mouton (Nesciens mater); Poulenc (Piano Concerto)
9.00 An Advent Calendar: Durham County Youth Choir under Alan Woods performs Trad, arr Pettman (Sing Lullaby!; The Angel Gabriel)
9.10 Composer of the Week: Elliott Carter. The composer, in conversation with Misha Donat, presents Musicians Wrestle Everywhere: Eight Etudes and a Fantasy; Variations for Orchestra
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Edward Blakeman. Handel (Messiah, Christmas Music, Part 1); Reicha (Fugues: Nos 28 and 9); Smetana (Polka No 4); Ernie Barnard (Divertissement); Saint-Saëns, arr Taffanel (Feuillet d'Album); Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 1) **12.00 Voices** (r)
1.00pm News 1.05 St David's Hall Lunchtime Recital: Boris Berman, piano, plays Debussy (Pour le piano; Images, Estampes)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras: The BBC Scottish Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins performs Alexander Knaifel (Vera); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 6 in B Minor, Pathétique)
3.10 Mining the Archive: John Amis introduces music by Prieaux Rainier who drew her inspiration from her childhood in remote South Africa as well as her love of European art and architecture. String Quartet; Quanta; Barberic Dance Suite; Cycle for Declamation; Uounzima, Misfortune
4.30 Lullabies. The second of two programmes, presented by Veronica Doubleday (r)
5.00 In Tune: Richard Baker previews the weekend and presents a selection of music, including Beethoven (Overture, Leonora No 2); **5.30** Glazunov (Chant du Ménéstrel); **6.30** Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 3 in C); Tippett (Praeludium for brass, bells and percussion)
7.30 Messiaen Commemorative Concert: See Choice
8.55 Curtain Up on Fidelio: Aled Jones discusses Beethoven's only opera and places it in the context of his other work. He learns of the heavy toll its creation took on the composer. *Fidelio* will be broadcast live from the New York Met tomorrow night on Radio 3
9.15 The Nash Ensemble play Schumann: Andante and Variations; Songs from the Spanisches Liederspiel: Adagio and Allegro in A flat, Op 70; Piano Quintet in E flat, Op 44. Judith Howarth, soprano, Jean Rigby, mezzo, Robert Tear, tenor, and Henry Herford, baritone
10.45 Emperor of Liberty: David Walker looks at the life of Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States and principal author of the *Declaration of Independence*. Walker interviews historians and examines Jefferson's writings to assess the impact of the intellectual statesman
11.30 Midnight Oil: Sarah Walker presents music by Messiaen (Oiseaux exotiques; Couleurs de la cité céleste: Paul Crossley, piano; London Sinfonietta) and Louis Andriessen (Hoketus)
12.30am News 12.35-12.45 An Advent Calendar (as 9am)

CHOICE

The Balloon's Gone Up. *Radio 4, 3.30pm.*

Radio keeps coming up with arresting features based on little-known facts about the last war. In *The Balloon's Gone Up*, Ruth Prince has charted the fortunes of some of those Welsh civilians who underwent secret commando-style training for action behind enemy lines in the event of an invasion of Britain. They were a Dad's Army with teeth. The life expectancy of these volunteer saboteurs was put at two weeks in a German-occupied Wales. They were unsung heroes, every last man-Jack (and Dai) of them.

Messiaen Commemorative Concert. *Radio 3, 7.30pm.*

This is a notable musical event — the first British broadcast of Messiaen's last work. *Eclairs sur l'au-delà*. Messiaen died in April 1992, the year before completing a score on which he had worked for nearly four years. It is a huge composition, written for 130 instruments, and it was premiered in New York last year. Tonight's performance is a recording made at London's Barbican Hall last month, when *Eclairs* received its British premiere. The orchestra is the LSO, under Kent Nagano. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** *Prayer for the Day* with Rabbi Norman Solomon **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's castaway is Kaye Webb, founder of Puffin Books (r)
9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley
10.00-10.30 Pedalling Backwards (FM only). We Never Hear the Skylark Now. David Bean and Laurence Cantwell retrace the route they took as cyclists in the summer of 1947
10.00 News; An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 The Bible (LW only): Micah. Anna Massey reads the second of two selections (r)
10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced from Cardiff by Gail Foley. Serial: *The Very Dead of Winter*, by Mary Hocking (final part). Incl **11.00 News**
11.30 The Natural History Programme, presented by Kelvin Boot
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Tasneem Siddiqi
12.25pm The Food Programme, presented by Derek Cooper
12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping
2.00 News; Classic Serial: Zorba the Greek, by Nikos Kazantzakis. First of a two-part dramatisation. With Robert Stephens in the title role, Michael Maloney as Nikos and Mary Wimbush as Hortense (r)
3.00 News; Special Assignment
3.30 The Balloon's Gone Up: See Choice
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope lists the pick of this year's art books; and reviews Adrian Noble's production of *Macbeth*
4.45 Short Story: When It's Over, by Gillian Tindall. Read by Tina Gray
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places: Janet Trewin and Peter Macann explore the world of transport
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week, with Chris Serle
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a discussion in Oxford. The panel comprises the Rt Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford; Rosalind Miles, writer; Simon Heffer, deputy editor of *The Spectator*; and Ruth Deech, principal of St Anne's College, Oxford
8.50 Bright Sparks: Anne Kelleher talks to barrister Daniel Alexander, who helped the Beatles to protect their Apple logo
9.15 Kaleidoscope: On the seventy-fifth anniversary of British women gaining the vote, Joan Smith explores how art and artists sustained the suffragettes' cause (r)
9.45 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Bel Ami, by Guy de Maupassant. Read by Alex Jennings (5/12)
11.00 Week Ending: A satirical look back at the week's news with Sally Grace and company
11.25 The Financial Week, with Heather Payton
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** As World Service (LW only)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am The DJ Kat Show (83816475) **8.40** Lamb Chops Play-a-Long (7694611) **9.10** Cartoons (4382833) **9.30** Card Sharks (9957104) **9.55** Concentration (9985123) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (7478727) **10.30** Love at First Sight (17123) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (24582) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (12625) **12.30pm** Paradise Beach (26388) **1.00** Barnaby Jones (14524) **2.00** Seventh Avenue (91746) **3.00** Another World (6398253) **3.45** The DJ Kat Show (5525211) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (9253) **6.00** Games World (3185) **6.30** Paradise Beach (7765) **7.00** Rescue (5122) **7.30** Growing Pains (3949) **8.00** WWF Mania (57253) **9.00** Cops (35543) **9.30** Code 3 (39833) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (12727) **12.00** The Streets of San Francisco (80470) **1.00am** Night Court (79437) **1.30-2.00** Maniac Mansion (90418)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (91307) **9.30** ABC Nightline (17475) **10.30** Memories of 1970-91 (75901) **11.30** Japan Business Today (19123) **12.30pm** News and Business Report (86017) **1.30** CBS This Morning (87746) **2.30** Review of the Year (35730) **3.30** The Lords (97811) **4.30** News and Business Report (3582) **5.00** Live at Five (235475) **7.30** *FT Reports* (4291) **8.30** *Talkback* (37475) **11.30** CBS News (52415) **12.30am** ABC News (12693) **1.30** *Critical Earth* (93876) **2.30** Memories of 1970-91 (18234) **3.30** *Talkback* (20079) **4.30** *Beyond 2000* (22876) **5.30-6.00** CBS News (95741)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (5119949)
10.00 An American Tail: Fievel Goes West (1991): Fievel the mouse and a sheriff take on the bad guys (20185)
12.00 Advice to the Lovelorn (1981): Clons Leachman plays an agony aunt (81479)
2.00pm Silent Night, Lonely Night (1969): Lonely middle-aged singles find love. With Lloyd Bridges and Shirley Jones (81456)
4.00 Yours, Mine and Ours (1968): A widow and widower, Lucille Ball and Henry Fonda, marry into a large family (4185)
6.00 An American Tail: Fievel Goes West (as 10am) (24125)
7.30 Special Feature: Actors Turned Directors (8017)
8.00 Company Business (1991): Gene Hackman and Mikhail Baryshnikov play former spies who become the target of the CIA and the KGB (23589307)
9.40 US Top Ten (182524)
10.00 Mobsters (1991): Gangster thriller with Christian Slater (44291)
12.00 Bruce v Bill Martial arts (978875)
1.35am Return to the Blue Lagoon (1991): Adolescent love story in paradise (559673)
3.30 The Adventures of Ford Fairlane (1990): Detective spoof with Andrew Dice Clay (457963). Ends at **5.10**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm The Boy from Oklahoma (1954): A law student, Will Rogers Jr (32982)
8.00 The Lonely Man (1957): A former convict tries to win back the respect of his son. With Anthony Perkins (44727)
10.00 Klute (1971): Donald Sutherland and Jane Fonda investigate the disappearance of a scientist (28291). Ends at **12.00**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Man in the Net (1959): Alan Ladd is accused of murder (32340)
8.00 Rockin' with Judy Jetson: A girl attempts to save the world (69003086)
9.40 Brer Rabbit Christmas Carol: Animated seasonal tale (3513746)
10.45 The Magic Snowman. Seasonal tale for children (581253)
12.15pm The 300 Spartans (1962): The Greeks fight the Persians (673086)
2.10 Somebody Loves Me (1952): Biopic of vaudeville star Blossom Seeley (720630)
4.00 Rockin' with Judy Jetson (as 8am) (2727)
8.00 Running Against Time (1990): A man goes back in time to prevent the Kennedy assassination and the Vietnam War (72562)
9.40 Kuffs (1992). Christian Slater inherits a police protection agency (84307)
10.00 Split Second (1992): Rutger Hauer tracks an alien in London (995389)
11.35 Meet the Feebles (1991): Peter Jackson's adult comedy (655974)

New Zealand turns to Meads

Management takes rap for tour failings

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE New Zealand rugby authorities took dramatic action yesterday following the tour of England and Scotland which ended this month. The All Blacks won 12 and lost only one of their 13 matches, but that record was not enough to save Neil Gray, the tour manager, from dismissal.

Gray was also criticised for his handling the Jamie Joseph affair. He refused to reveal the punishment meted out to Joseph for stamping on Kyran Bracken during the England-New Zealand international — the All Blacks' defeat. Bracken, the Bristol scrum half, has not played since.

The New Zealand Rugby Football Union council also criticised the late addition to the party of Mike Brewer, the back-row forward controversially brought in for the last ten days of the tour. Gray has been replaced by Colin Meads while Peter Thorburn, one of the three selectors who chose the party, has also been sacked and replaced by Lyn Colling.

"At the time, the decision [to reprimand Joseph] was kept within the team environment, but the council feels they should have made public the details of the disciplinary action in order that justice be seen to be done," a statement said, mindful no doubt that the climate of opinion had been affected by the description early in the tour by the New Zealand management of Philip de Glanville's eye injury as an "unfortunate accident" in a ruck.

Eddie Tonks, the council chairman, added that Joseph had been severely reprimanded and omitted from the last two matches of the tour, though it is difficult to understand how that decision can be made retrospective since the management vehemently denied at the time that his omission formed part of what was described as an "in-house" punishment.

At the same time, the council pointed out that Brewer, who has played hardly any representative rugby all year, was brought into the tour party at a time when Liam Barry and John Mitchell were fit and available. Brewer, who captained Otago when Laurie Mains, now the New Zealand coach, was the province's coach, was on business in England during the tour, but the council surely felt he was surplus to requirements. He was among the replacements for the matches against England and the Barbarians and played the final minutes of the game in Cardiff against the Baa-baas.

Clearly Gray, a farmer from Morrinsville, has been made the scapegoat for these decisions and for not-dissimilar reactions to violent play that occurred during the All Blacks' tour of Australia in



Joseph: reprimanded

1992. His role now passes to another farmer, Meads, the legendary lock from the King Country who played 55 times for New Zealand between 1957 and 1971. This completes the rehabilitation of Meads, whose administrative career passed under a cloud after he coached the unofficial New Zealand Cavaliers in South Africa in 1986.

"The events of 1986 are dead and buried," Meads, not the most extrovert of communicators, said.

Meads's elevation adds an influential voice to those seeking greater remuneration for players, since he is on record as calling for a professional level in the game so long as arrangements are on an equitable basis. "Players these days have all got to look to their future," he said while the British Isles were touring New Zealand last summer. "There are some people in high places on the international board who still believe strongly in the amateur game, but they are out of touch with the realities of modern rugby."

The appointment of Colling, a former scrum half who toured Britain in 1972-73, completes a remarkable triumvirate of former Otago players now at the helm of New Zealand rugby — Mains and Earle Kirton played there during the 1960s — and comes at the expense of Thorburn, from North Harbour.

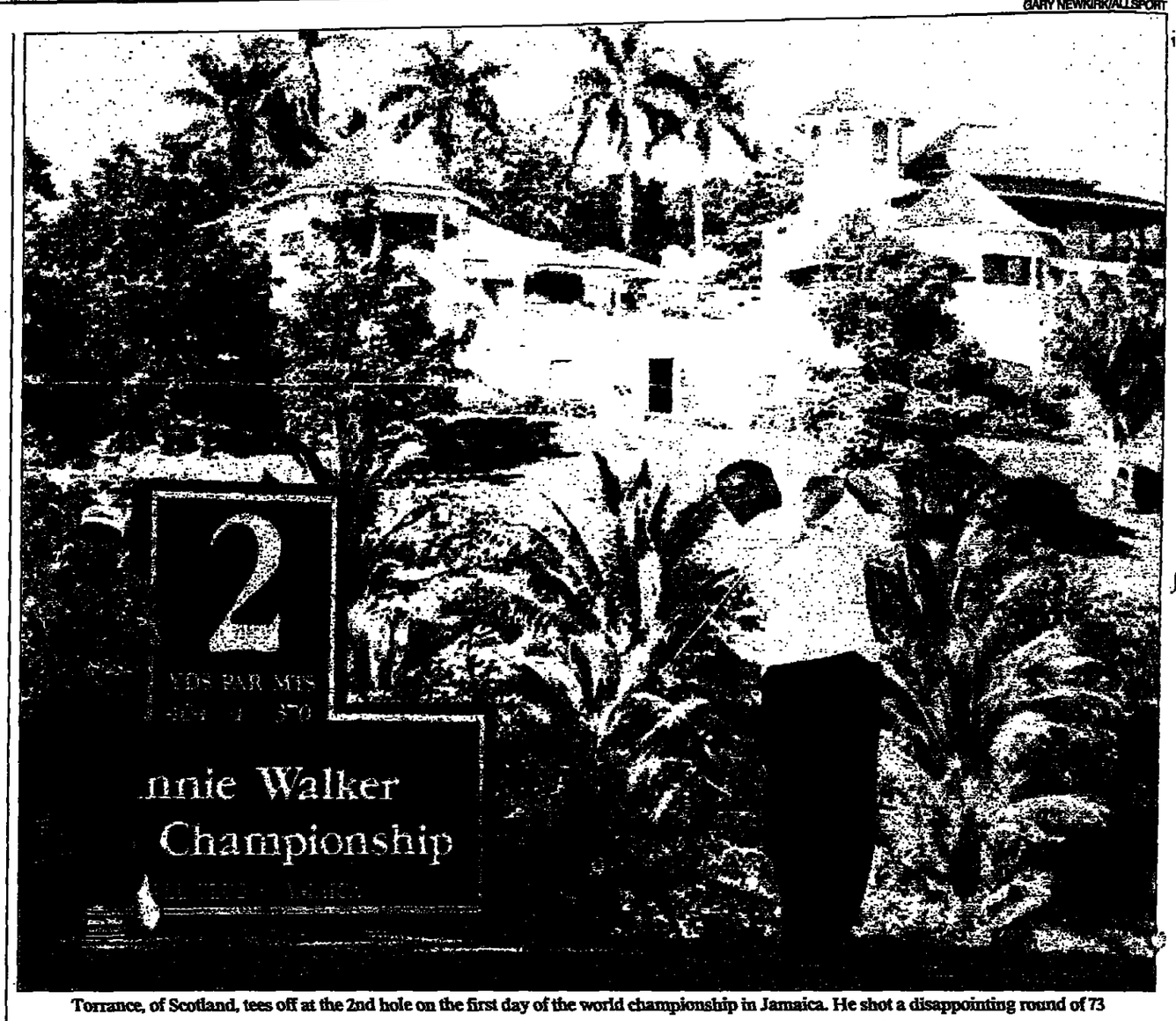
While Mains and Kirton enjoyed the higher profile with national teams, Thorburn looked after New Zealand's under-21 and sevens teams, both of which had an indifferent 1993. He was also involved with the development party, whose tour of Pacific islands ended prematurely this year after a public-house brawl.

Since the New Zealand council was so concerned with disciplinary aspects of the recent tour, it is not surprising that they also published plans to tighten up procedure in their own country. Next year, 48 hours will be allowed for citing players — a procedure which British officials may well consider more closely — and they plan to introduce two "official" spectators at leading matches to watch for incidents of foul play.

Referees will also be permitted to see videos of matches so that reports on foul play can be clarified and the New Zealand union will ask permission of the International Rugby Football Board to establish a two-man panel to adjudicate on instances of foul play which occur during tour matches in their country. That would relieve officials directly involved of responsibility for recommending punishment of their own players.

Clement Freud, page 44
David Miller, page 46

GARY NEWKIRK/ALLSPORT



Torrance, of Scotland, tees off at the 2nd hole on the first day of the world championship in Jamaica. He shot a disappointing round of 73

Torrance wilts in Jamaican heat

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN JAMAICA

SAM Torrance's year, which began in Madeira in January, is not going to end with a Caribbean calypso — at least not unless his golf improves. Yesterday, the Scot scored a lacklustre 73 in the first round of the world championship at the Tryall club, ten miles from Montego Bay.

He was quickly overtaken by Steve Elkington, whose 68 was the best round of the early finishers in the Johnnie Walker-sponsored event. Torrance, 40 last August, found the 90°F sunshine energy sapping and it was made worse by high humidity. He had wanted to play in shorts but John Paramor, the tournament director, banned them. "This is not holiday golf," he said. To wear shorts or not is not a laughing matter. Torrance was just one of a number of players who had asked to dress in such a way but Paramor was adamant. He relented, however, and allowed the caddies, who are not normally allowed to wear shorts, to do so.

Dealing with the heat was a problem that faced many of the players. Some of them carried bottles of water from which they drank regularly. Torrance draped a wet towel over his shoulders, wore a visor and pulled his shirt out of his trousers so it looked rather like a short skirt. There was a reason for this. He perspires so much that his shirt becomes tight and he is unable to complete his backswing.

He looked a sight and knew it. "I'm not going for the sartorial elegance award this week," he said. "It was as hot as I have ever known out there.

"I had intended to use six gloves and change each one every three holes but, as I tore two of them putting them on, I ended up using only four."

Torrance's golf was affected by his frame of mind. The outward half, which winds its way through the hills, is the more difficult of the two halves at Tryall and Torrance was three over par by the time he reached the 10th tee.

He left a 20-foot putt on the edge of the hole for a birdie there but was cheered when a putt of similar length disappeared into the hole for a birdie on the 11th.

Torrance has only two weeks off before he starts his 1994 campaign with a tournament in South Africa. "I accepted the invitation to go to South Africa in the morning and that same afternoon I got invited to this," he said. "Sod's law, I suppose. Normally, I would not dream of playing in both. The season is too long and you have to have a proper break."

Elkington, who lives in Houston but was born in Australia, found himself able to cope more easily with the heat. The hallmark of his round was its consistency. He had only one bogey and that on the 8th, the 447-yard par four.

For some time now, he has been held up as the possessor of the best swing on the United States tour. It is now beginning to look as though his game is matching that level of perfection.

Shorts? "They will be all right by me," Elkington said. But then he thought for a moment and said: "Perhaps on second thoughts they would take away from the atmosphere that the organisers are trying to create."

Gordon Brand Jr found the heat so oppressive that he developed a raging headache on his way to his one-under-par 70. He managed to take some tablets that relieved the pain to such effect that he birdied two of his three closing holes and ended with something approaching a smile on his face.

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES: 68: S Elkington (Aus). 69: F Allem (SA). 70: G Brand Jr (GB). 71: C Rocca (It), R Torrance (GB). 74: J Parnevik (Swe). 75: B Crenshaw (US). 76: B Hughes (Aus), J Maggert (US). 79: S Oluda (Japan).

Yorath hopes for compromise over new contract



Yorath: flexible

BY KEITH PIKE

TERRY Yorath's future as the manager of the Wales football team was unresolved last night after a hectic day of negotiations in Cardiff over the renewal of his contract, which expires on December 31.

Alun Evans, the chief executive of the Football Association of Wales (FAW), was believed to be meeting with fellow members of the committee that will decide Yorath's future. Earlier in the day he had said that Yorath's contract would not be renewed, but after speaking to him in the afternoon said Yorath "had indicated he was prepared to be flexible" over his demands, and "had come forward with some new ideas". It seems a compromise may be reached within the next few days.

Yorath, who was appointed in April 1988 on a part-time basis and became full-time manager in June 1991, has asked for a 33 per cent increase on his present salary, thought to be around £45,000 a year. He also wanted a four-year deal that would take in the qualifying competition for the 1998 World Cup. The FAW is believed to have offered only a two-year contract, agreeing to meet Yorath's financial requirements by way of a bonus should Wales qualify for the 1996 European championship finals.

Yorath insisted that he was keen to negotiate further with the FAW . "I have had an amicable conversation with Alun Evans and hopefully he will come back to me," he said. "There are not large sums of money involved, there is not that much between us. I have never said my position was not negotiable, and I am hopeful that I can reach some kind of agreement. My demands are not excessive.

"It is not a personality clash between myself and Alun Evans. I understand that he has to look after the interests of the FAW. I cannot stop them looking for my successor — that's up to them. But I could walk out tomorrow knowing I have done the best job for Wales I could have done."

After a 2-1 defeat by Romania in Cardiff last month had ended Wales's hopes of qualifying for the World Cup finals in the United States next summer, Yorath revealed that he had been offered lucrative coaching contracts in Greece, Turkey and Japan, although his family are thought to be unwilling to leave their home in Leeds.

Capped 59 times by Wales between 1969 and 1980, and captain a record 43 times, Yorath, 43, would also be reluctant to leave his job. He has the unqualified support of the Wales players and is keen to oversee a restructuring of the game in Wales from grass-roots level upwards.

Should Yorath and the FAW fail to reach agreement — the negotiations have been going on for nearly three weeks — it is likely that Terry Venables, the former Tottenham Hotspur manager, would top the FAW list of possible replacements.

Maine Road crisis, page 43
German decline, page 43

FT 17.10.17/12

DIESEL'S NO LONGER A DIRTY WORD WHEN YOU ADD THE LETTERS BMW.

It took five years for BMW to develop a diesel engine refined enough to carry its badge. As a result, emission levels are well below the strictest regulations in Europe

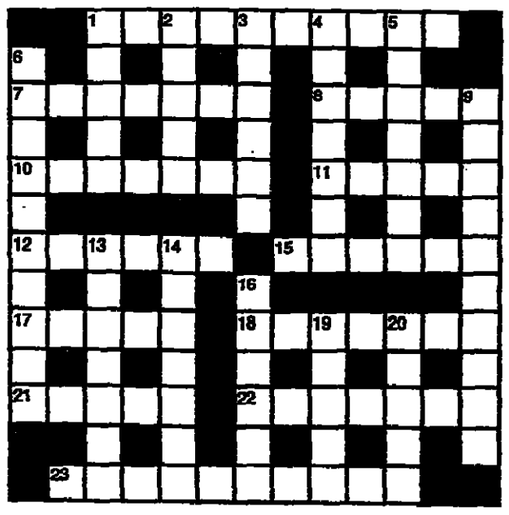
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 41

ACROSS
1 Long-lived patriarch (10)
7 Patio (7)
8 Ascend (5)
10 Let go (7)
11 Spanish (and US) square (5)
12 Towards summit (6)
15 Commit to prison pending trial (6)
17 Printer's insertion sign (5)
18 Extinct wild ox (7)
21 Cell; safe; diminish (5)
22 Water race meeting (7)
23 Remarkable capacity for alcohol (6,4)

DOWN
1 Maxim (5)
2 Jewelled head-dress (5)
3 Not smooth (6)
4 Absconder (7)
5 Pantomime wood-cutter (3,4)
6 Drink for huntsman (7,3)
9 Rolled-up, cream-filled biscuit (6-4)
13 Nelson: friend of Hamlet (7)
14 Word for word (7)
16 Tumulus (6)
19 Deranged elephant (5)
20 Skin proper (5)

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SOLUTION TO NO 40

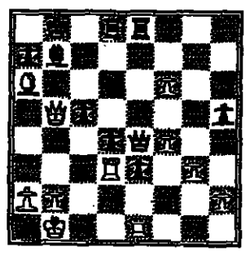
ACROSS: 8 Iron Age 9 Aside 10 Perishing 11 Gog 12 Retch 14 Thymine 15 Scalpel 17 Therm 19 Hop 20 Razor-bill 22 Ozone 23 Reading

DOWN: 1 Kipper 2 Tour 3 Pass the parcel 4 Desist 5 Hang by a thread 6 Disguise 7 League 13 Teaspoon 15 School 16 Lizard 18 Malign 21 Ibis

By Raymond Keene

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Solution, page 44



By Philip Howard

LURDANE
a. A Danish islander
b. Flowering bugloss
c. Dull and lazy

MARCID
a. A follower of St Mark
b. Withered
c. Bitterly ironic

EXOTERIC
a. Easy to understand
b. Tending to emigrate
c. Having big ears

DIVULSION
a. Abhorrence
b. Tearing apart
c. Turning one's face away

Answers on page 44

هكذا من الأصل